



President's nominee wins after snub

Double blow to the authority of Gorbachev

From MARY DEJESKY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev suffered a double blow to his declining authority yesterday when his nominee for Soviet vice-president was only elected on a second ballot and the Russian Federation announced that it would withhold much of its contribution to the central budget.

The initial rejection of his hand-picked and only candidate for the vice-presidency further dented Mr Gorbachev's already battered prestige. When Gennadi Yanayev succeeded at the second attempt, he met a less than enthusiastic reception from some members of the Congress of People's Deputies.

The loss of Russian funds threatens the country with serious financial problems after the federation parliament voted to withhold more than 80 per cent of its planned contribution to next year's central budget. The decision, taken by the Russian parliament late on Wednesday, constitutes an open challenge to central economic control and was at once

condemned by Mr Gorbachev as threatening the "disintegration not only of the economy, but of the country as a whole."

The Russian move leaves the Soviet budget for next year, which was to have been finalised next week, without the bulk of its planned revenue. According to Mr Gorbachev, central programmes, including social spending and state subsidies, will have to be cut by 110 billion roubles (£110 billion). This year, Russia contributed 142 billion roubles to the centre, but it has said it will give only 23.4 billion next year.

The Soviet central budget was always going to experience difficulties next year, with the most optimistic estimate forecasting an internal deficit of 59 billion roubles, roughly the same as that predicted for this year. But this required full contributions from the republics, a sharp reduction in capital investment, lower defence spending, and price increases. So far there has been intense public resistance to price rises and the military is believed to have lobbied successfully for his defects.

One speaker was taking a leaf out of Boris Yeltsin's book by choosing an unknown for his team. But others implied obliquely that Mr Yanayev was in the same mould and would have been the natural choice of the ailing prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, who had a heart attack on Wednesday. The final speaker foretold catastrophe if delegates failed to back his choice for vice-president.

Mr Gorbachev supported his decision to renominate Mr Yanayev by saying that only 25 per cent of delegates had voted against him and that the post of vice-president had to be decided as a matter of urgency. "I want someone I can trust implicitly," he told sceptical delegates.

In the vice-presidential ballot, Mr Yanayev, aged 53, was 31 votes short of the simple majority needed, taking only 1,089 of 2,239 on the first count. Many delegates to the congress declined to vote at all. Despite the initial result, Mr Gorbachev stood by his choice and nominated Mr Yanayev for a second ballot, which he won comfortably, with 1,237 votes in his favour. His confirmation was greeted by thin applause from delegates tired and bored after ten days' often ineffectual debate.

Mr Yanayev, a senior party official and formerly head of the official trade union movement, was an unexpected choice for vice-president and many congress delegates, regardless of their political sympathies, complained that they did not know him. Reformists considered him too hardline, while many others said he lacked the necessary stature. After the first ballot, there



Storm tossed: a ferry straggling across the Firth of Clyde from Gourock to the Kilecraggan Peninsula yesterday

Another five days of gales forecast

By DAVID YOUNG
AND KERRY GILL

BRITAIN is bracing itself for a fourth day of gales after rain, snow and winds gusting up to 80mph has blocked and flooded roads and left thousands of people without electricity.

Yesterday saw the worst weather so far of the present stormy conditions, with lower temperatures and continuing high winds. Blizzards swept south from Scotland and Northern Ireland into north-east England and North Wales.

Another five days of gales have been predicted. The London Weather Centre said that winds would again reach gale force today, and that Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North and the West would bear the brunt of the storms. Snow would fall on high ground and there would be heavy seas. The rest of the country faced torrential sleet and rain, with high winds unlikely to disappear before next Monday or Tuesday. Yesterday's gales brought down power lines in the Midlands, cutting off more than 3,000 homes.

High winds and snow caused disruption throughout Scotland. A man died when his car collided with a lorry in the Borders. Police said that the accident was caused by bad weather.

Power lines were brought down by winds gusting at more than 70mph, trees were uprooted and many roads were

Continued on page 18, col 7

Weather line threat, page 3

CBI warning of more job losses

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PICTURE of deepening recession and rising unemployment was painted yesterday in separate reports from the Confederation of British Industry and Manpower, the country's biggest employment services company. The reports come as union leaders in key industries are preparing wage demands above the rate of inflation to maintain the living standards of their members.

The CBI said that the slowdown in earnings growth must continue in order to prevent a rising tide of redundancies becoming a flood. John Banham, director general of the CBI, told unions that to use the retail price index as a target in pay negotiations would put jobs at risk. "If such recklessness prevails there will be needless job losses. Pay must reflect performance."

In its report, Manpower said that employment prospects are at their worst since the beginning of 1983. Only one in ten employers are

expecting to recruit in the first three months of next year, half the number for the same period this year. At the same time, more than one firm in ten is expecting to announce job losses.

Manpower, which interviewed 1,500 companies, said that in industry, the worst hit has been the public sector, with 15 per cent of firms

expecting a decline in employment prospects. In service industries, 12 per cent of employers are expecting to dismiss staff compared with eight per cent who plan to recruit them.

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Continued on page 18, col 7

CBI report, page 19

Rushdie says he is a Muslim

By ROBIN YOUNG

SALMAN RUSHDIE, the author of *The Satanic Verses* still living in hiding under religious sentence of death for his book's alleged blasphemies, writes in *The Times* today: "I am certainly not a good Muslim. But I am able now to say that I am a Muslim."

The author describes his Christmas Eve meeting with six Muslim scholars, which led to his decision to affirm the basic tenets of Islam, as "a victory for compassion, understanding and tolerance".

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Rushdie writes, page 10

TODAY

Top dogs and underdogs

The year of the fallen prominent and the risen obscure, reviewed by George Hill and Sara Driver

PAGES 14, 15

Getting their skates on

The complete guide to keeping the children occupied during the school holiday, from skating to zoos via the best museums

PAGE 16

SATURDAY

Ah summer, ah bliss



Jan Morris, jaded by the Eighties, with a personal reflection on the warming and reinvigorating summer of 1990, a window through which hope was briefly glimpsed

The quiz as an art form

So, what is the record price for a civilian hat? Take on our quiz of the year

WEEKEND LIVING

No leaves on the line?

Paul Knipe is in charge of British Rail's trackside, with the aim of protecting animals and plants and thereby cheering up passengers

WEEKEND LIVING

See the old year out and the new one in with *The Times*, which publishes normally on New Year's eve and New Year's day. Place an order to be sure of your copy

Stormy meeting led to Ryzhkov heart attack

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, suffered his cardiac arrest after "excessive attacks that were exaggerated, persistent and deliberate", according to his wife Ludmila. Yesterday, President Gorbachev said he was in a serious but stable condition.

Mr Ryzhkov described her husband's illness in an unusually personal interview, published at length by Tass, which had given strikingly sympathetic coverage to the prime minister's views when he was still at work.

She confirmed speculation that his cardiac seizure occurred hours after Tuesday night's stormy meeting be-

Continued on page 18, col 7

Weather line threat, page 3

Army ready to seek call-up

By LIN JENKINS

THE army is poised to press Tom King, the defence secretary, to issue call-up papers today to specified reservists with particular medical skills for service in the Gulf.

General Sir Robert Pascoe, the adjutant general, who has responsibility for the call-up operation, said yesterday that he had first to assess in what areas the service fell short

after the call for medically qualified volunteers failed to raise the total needed. Yes-

terday, 460 volunteers were recruited at Aldershot and 250 in Glasgow. Others were turned down on medical grounds or because they were too old.

Originally, Mr King had said that a further 1,500 medical personnel were needed, but General Pascoe said that between 1,000 and 1,100 were needed.

Those who came forward included a consultant surgeon earning £147,000 a year, a consultant pathologist, former army doctors, nurses and

medical technicians and those with qualifications from within the Territorial Army.

General Pascoe said that he was not disappointed by the low turnout. "I am very heartened by the numbers who have so far turned up when you think of what is at stake for the individual in terms of finance, family and

Continued on page 18, col 1

Volunteers report, page 2

Gulf stalemate, page 9

Leading article, page 11

Letters, page 11

One compelling reason for a diversified energy programme

The Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves.

Any instability in the region puts the world's oil markets on edge. And when oil prices start to rise, those of gas normally follow suit.

It would be unwise to assume that the present oil crisis will be the last. It's reassuring, therefore, to know that nuclear power can help stabilise Britain's energy costs.

If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

Tel: 081-205 7090 for a free information pack.

Or write to: The British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

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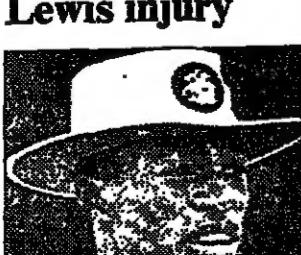
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BRITISH NUCLEAR FORUM

The voice of Britain's nuclear power industry.

Lewis injury



Chris Lewis is returning home from the second Test in Melbourne, Australia. He has a stress fracture of the back. England were all out for 352 in yesterday's play.

INDEX
Births, marriages, deaths 13
Business 19-22
Court & social 12
Crosswords 13,18
Leading articles 11
Letters 11
Obituaries 12
Sport 24-28
TV & radio 17
Weather 18

genetic diseases emerged and if Neanderthal man was the end of an evolutionary line or the forerunner of modern intelligent humans.

Matching genetic fragments from primitive man with those from ancient apes could help to pinpoint where in evolution animals crossed over to becoming humans and provide insights into human migration over thousands of years. The dating of the arrival of diseases such as syphilis and influenza may also become possible.

The work is being pioneered by a team from the Australian National University in Canberra, which is studying blood traces from tools discovered at various sites in the Middle East. Thomas Loy, the team leader and formerly of the Royal British Columbia museum in

Vancouver, identified the potential of studying ancient remains for blood samples while analysing the knives of the Pacific Northwest Indians who lived 1,000 years ago. Mr Loy believes that the research could ultimately reveal mankind's entire history.

The research is being aided by the discovery that blood can survive complete with its genetic code for millennia, as well as improved techniques for examining samples. Once the Australian scientists are convinced that the blood samples are human, they are subjected to DNA fingerprinting analysis to discover their genetic make-up.

Researchers at Sheffield university are also using powerful enzymes and have detected blood proteins in Saxon bones believed to be 1,000 years old. They say the technique offers a cheap, easy and highly sensitive way of detecting even small amounts of blood protein in crushed, ancient bone samples.

The work is producing spin-offs for zoologists and researchers studying ancient cultural history. Dr Loy's team has been studying samples from cave paintings in the Northwestern Territory and Judd's Cavern in Tasmania, dating from between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. These are not only helping to show that blood pigments were used in art but also allow dating of the paintings.

Other blood samples are believed to be from a species of cow which became extinct in Europe in the 17th century. Others from sheep should allow zoologists studying ancient animals to distinguish them more easily from goats' remains.

Cardiff draws itself a role in expanding cartoon industry

Children throughout the world are enjoying cartoons made in Cardiff that are providing Wales with a new cottage industry, Melinda Wittstock reports

AS MINES and steel mills in Wales were closing in the Eighties, animators in Cardiff were creating cartoon characters that have won the principality new fame.

Fireman Sam, *SuperTed* and *Wil Cwac Cwac*, eight years ago just a twinkle in the eyes of their creators, have become children's favourites everywhere. The high-quality cartoons, made in Welsh before being dubbed into almost every language and snapped up by the Disney Channel, are now avidly watched all over the world on television and video cassette.

Thanks to S4C, the Welsh commercial television channel created in 1982 as a sister to Channel 4, Cardiff is home to a thriving cottage industry, and Britain has become a significant player in the wonderful world that had belonged almost exclusively to Walt Disney and Warner Brothers.

Five animation houses and 45 independent production com-

panies have sprung up with the financial backing of S4C, luring many talented freelance artists away from London and a precarious living from cartoon commercials. Cardiff art schools have been raided for talented students.

Now, as children read, or play with, spin-offs from *SuperTed* and *Wil Cwac Cwac*, international co-production export money flows back to finance still more ambitious projects. Only two full-length animation features were made in Britain throughout the 1970s, but four are being made this year in Wales alone.

S4C, which has grossed £1 million on *Fireman Sam*, the BBC's top-selling video last year, has £3.5 million riding on new projects and international co-productions. These will take Welsh animation far beyond children's cartoons, according to Christopher Grace, S4C's head of animation. A £2.5 million animated dram-

MARC ASPLAND



Moving pictures: a Cardiff animator viewing a "cell" from the cartoon *Body Beautiful*

atization of six Shakespeare plays, produced by two Welsh animators and Moscow's Sojusfilm-film studio for release in 1992, breaks all cartoon clichés. A riveting, moody 60-second "animatic" of the opening witches scene of

Macbeth, costing £30,000 to produce, had enough American and German buyers queuing at S4C's door for the channel to commission animated versions of *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The*

animators who cut his teeth on *Yellow Submarine* and recently turned down a takeover offer from Disney for his Siriol Animations team in Cardiff, is not stopping with Shakespeare. Together with S4C and the American MCA, he is producing the first full-length animated feature commissioned by a Hollywood studio from outside America: *The Little Engine That Could*. Other Hollywood studios are lined up for co-production deals for two of his other projects, *Hot Dog*, a cartoon series about a canine car, and *The Radio Adventures of J.P. Jones*, in which a boy's imagination takes him into a strange world of adventure as he listens to a detective story on the radio.

Robin Lyons, of Cardiff's Siriol Productions, is busy on a production by S4C and Hungary's Pannonia Studios of *The Princess and the Goblin*, a full-length fairy tale with the voices of Rik Mayall and Claire Bloom.

S4C's ambitions to produce

high-class adult animation will soon be realized with a version by Mr Lyons of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*. Using the Richard Burton soundtrack of the

play, recorded by the BBC in 1954, it will be a moody and imaginative £750,000 full-length feature "pitched entirely at adults", says Mr Lyons.

Channel 4's interest in adult animation has provided a showcase for the talents of both Joanna Hirst and Candy Guard, two feminist animators who have each won awards for their short, satirical pieces. In *Miss Hirst's character*, Beryl, a disgruntled working-class housewife, features in *Girls' Night Out* and in *Body Beautiful* and is likely to appear in a series in which she goes to the Costa del Sol and to the Bronx.

Cardiff animators, now involved in £9.5 million worth of productions in the next two to three years, have become so successful that commissions are coming in faster than they can do them. "We have a serious skills shortage," Mr Edwards says.

Geraint Stanley-Jones, chief executive of S4C, wants to combine the older Welsh musical tradition with its newer one. "No one has yet been able to translate music to the TV screen creatively or successfully. We are going to interpret music visually," he said.

JOHN PAUL



Steven McGuinness, aged five, who has undergone a bone marrow transplant, being airlifted yesterday from Inverness to Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children after severe weather forced cancellation of the trip by ambulance (Kerry Gill writes). The Sea

King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth had to be diverted to Forres, Grampian, during the trip to take a man suffering from a heart attack to hospital in Aberdeen. The helicopter then took advantage of a "weather window" to cross from the east coast to

Glasgow. Although the flight took three-and-a-half hours, Steven's 170-mile journey by road would have taken much longer, with the added risk of becoming stuck in snow. At one stage they had to fly at 200ft because of poor visibility.

Shoppers thin on ground as recession hits winter sales

By DAVID YOUNG

HIGH street traders continued to feel the chill wind of the economic recession yesterday as they opened their doors for the winter sales to find few people queuing.

Department stores throughout the country were crowded but in London, where bargain-hunters traditionally wait for days to make sure of their special buy, only the homeless spent the night on the pavements.

In Oxford Street, Selfridges opened its door to a queue of only 200 people in spite of hiring a jazz band to woo the bargain-hunters.

A spokesman for the store said,

however, that it was hoped that 100,000 shoppers would have passed through its doors by the end of the day.

Debenhams also had few bargain-hunters waiting when doors opened at 9am but, later in the day, said that menswear and household goods were in particular demand. Liberty, in Regent Street, said that takings were slightly up on last year. Sarah Wells, a student, bought a silk wedding dress for £150—£800 less than the original price. At stores such as Jaeger and Aquascutum there were no big queues when the doors opened although business was brisker later.

Business outside London was better and the retail industry is hoping that the January sales will help to compensate for its worst Christmas for ten years. Early indications are that bad weather and the recession are keeping most

shoppers at home for a few more days, leaving the bargains in London to the tourists.

A spokesman for the Marble Arch Traders' Association said:

"We all had a bad Christmas. Shoppers have been very clever this year and waited for the sales. They are also moving away from the big stores to the smaller, quality traders hit hard by the recession and forced to make huge cuts. American, French and Scandinavian tourists in particular are lapping up goods in the higher price range."

There are fewer signs of concern about the recession in the Midlands, where traders are hoping for near-record profits. In Birmingham city centre, car parks were full by mid-morning.

At the Merry Hill centre at Dudley, West Midlands, one of Britain's biggest shopping precincts, a queue of more than 600 shoppers formed outside Debenhams before the doors opened. There were also early morning queues outside stores in Reading, Berkshire.

In Hull hundreds of people had to cancel a trip to the sales after 300 gypsies set up camp at the main bus terminal and bus managers had to cancel a special "park and ride" service for shoppers to the city centre.

Europe's biggest shopping mall, the MetroCentre at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was crowded with shoppers. A spokesman said that sales might have been helped by bad weather in the region.

Appalling weather appeared to dampen enthusiasm for the sales in the centre of Belfast, where crowds were markedly lighter than in recent years. Retailers described trading as "brisk".

Leading article, page 11

Overseas campaign to attract more pupils

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MAJOR overseas recruiting campaign is to be launched next year aimed at increasing boarding school rolls and saving some schools from closure.

The number of full boarders, who pay average fees of £9,000 a year, has consistently fallen since the second world war and now stands at 95,000 of the 475,000 pupils in schools represented by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis). In 1982 there were 112,000 boarders out of 404,000 pupils. The fall has been only partly compensated by the growth of weekly boarding, which now accounts for 10,000 children.

Next year's campaign will be directed at the Far East and Europe, including the nations of eastern Europe. Representatives of Isis will attend three international exhibitions, in Dusseldorf, Taiwan and Kuala Lumpur, in an attempt to improve overseas recruiting, seen as essential if boarding numbers are to be increased and schools saved.

The big-name schools are not affected, but smaller schools in remote areas where there is no readily accessible area of population for 50 or 60 miles face the threat of closure.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that numbers of overseas students had been affected by political changes in traditional markets such as Iran, and by the aggressive marketing of schools in America and Australia. In 1982 there were 33,500 overseas pupils, representing 4.4 per cent of pupils, but this year the figure fell to 22,700, fewer than 3 per cent.

An increase in students from abroad would have to be matched by better marketing at home, Dr Woodhead said. "Boarding schools have got to market themselves more effectively in the United Kingdom quite apart from looking outside. They have to see what the market wants."

"There are some boarding schools which are still against weekly boarding as they think it diminishes the whole ethos of boarding. As the number of parents looking for full boarding diminishes, the schools have to cater for the new type of parent, where both work and can see the advantages of boarding and want their children home at the weekend. It is better for the school to make that change willingly than to be forced into it."

Weatherline threatened with closure

By RONALD FAUX

THE Lake District national park weatherline, which warns hill walkers of treacherous weather, might have to close for want of a sponser.

The weatherline, which the mountain rescue service believes has saved lives, is used by 250,000 walkers a year. In yesterday's severe weather, those who wanted to know the conditions on Helvellyn (3,113ft), one of the country's most popular mountains, need only to have picked up a telephone to learn that it was covered in fresh snow with ice underfoot, storm-force winds, a high wind chill factor and poor visibility.

This information was available only because Sue Thompson, a national park ranger, climbed Helvellyn to check and bring the report up to date.

Stewart Hulse, leader of the Langdale and Ambleside mountain rescue team, said that it would be a terrible loss if the service ended. "It allows people to check if it is worthwhile setting out. If you've driven all the way from London to climb a mountain the temptation to press on regardless of the weather is great and that is when accidents happen. A forecast is vital before setting out into the hills in winter."

The Lake District service costs £15,000-£20,000 a year to provide. However, the national park fears that loss of sponsorship by a chocolate company will mean the service moving to a more expensive premium charge rate, making it less attractive, or that it will have to be abandoned.

Road scheme protest grows

By MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE growing attack on the environmental consequences of the government's £17 billion roads programme is intensified today with a report calling for the scrapping of present methods of appraising road projects.

The government's system for deciding which roads to build is undemocratic, biased and works against the interests of the environment, the report, commissioned by a group of five wildlife trusts in southeast England and their parent body, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, says.

Present appraisal procedures, based largely on monetary cost-benefit analysis, are far too narrow and should be replaced with a fairer scheme allowing public transport alternatives to be assessed, more emphasis given to the environment and decisions made after more public debate.

Environmental fears have been heightened by the government's decision to press ahead with several schemes, including the driving of the M3 motorway

through Twyford Down in Hampshire and the extension of the A20 dual carriageway along the top of the white cliffs of Dover.

KPMG Peat Marwick, a firm of management consultants appointed to help to prepare new guidelines for environmental good practice for various government departments, is still to make its recommendations.

Rupert Harwood, the wildlife trusts' transport campaigner, said: "The current appraisal system has devastated the environment, wasted billions of pounds and undermined democratic decision-making. Bureaucrats are making decisions that should be made by elected politicians. We are calling upon the government to abandon this archaic and disastrous system."

Unspoken Decree: *Road Appraisal, Democracy and the Environment* (Wildlife Trusts Transport Campaign, 80 Way, London N1 9AG, £3.50)

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found that almost 15 per cent of human salmonella cases in America could be attributed to contact with pets. However, turtle egg exports were not prohibited.

Robert Tauxe, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia, said baby turtles might look harmless but they were biological sponges of salmonella. Five million baby turtles and eggs were exported to Europe, Asia and South America last year and the demand is higher this year, probably because of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

film. The mutant problem began because farmers, anxious to eradicate salmonella from the turtles, overdoored their eggs with antibiotics to which the bacteria developed resistance.

Adults are unlikely to suffer from the bacteria but children, whose natural defences against infection are not fully developed, are more vulnerable to symptoms of abdominal cramps, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Ronald Siebeling, a microbiologist at Louisiana State University, who developed the treatment for

the eggs, said that misuse of the drugs by farmers could lead to a big public health problem, and that was not acceptable.

Turtle-linked illness has not yet surfaced as a health problem in this country but the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that the film was boosting the sale of their terrapin cousins, also known to be salmonella carriers. About 1,000 of the common snapping species of American turtle are imported into Britain each year as aquarium and pond pets.

Mutant turtle eggs may pose salmonella health risk

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of turtle eggs exported from America to be hatched into pets may harbour drug-resistant strains of salmonella bacteria that can cause serious illness, particularly in children.

According to a recent study in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, American turtle farmers are unwittingly breeding pets with antibiotic-resistant strains of the bacteria. Canadian health department scientists isolated 37 salmonella strains in 40,000 eggs

imported into Canada and found that all but seven were resistant to gentamicin, one of the most widely used antibiotics.

The study says that such high levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose a serious human health risk. "Further marketing of turtle eggs and hatchlings should be curtailed until consistent production and distribution of salmonella-free stocks can be assured."

Five years ago the US Food and Drug Administration banned the domestic sale of turtles less than four inches long after researchers

Kasparov triumphs in long-running duel of champions

GARY Kasparov, the defending world chess champion, has finally imposed his dominance on Anatoly Karpov after a duel that has spanned five encounters and half a decade.

Their first match began in Moscow in the winter of 1984 and was terminated on February 15 after 48 games with no final result. Kasparov, who had emerged from earlier doldrums, had won two games in a row and was predictably not amused.

His revenge came at Moscow in 1985 when, at the age of 22, he beat Karpov to become the youngest world champion. In return matches held in London and Leningrad in 1986 and Seville in 1987, Kasparov fought off Karpov but only by the narrowest of margins.

In Lyons, Kasparov's fiery genius has now produced an incontrovertible victory, being two points ahead with two games remaining and having already secured the 12 points needed for retention

Gary Kasparov, the world's greatest chess player, has not seen the last of challenger Anatoly Karpov. Raymond Keene writes

of the world championship.

The quality of chess played in this match has been equal if not superior to that in any former world championship match. Kasparov, aged 27, from Baku in Azerbaijan, must now be regarded as the greatest player in chess history.

This match fell into two halves. The first 12 games were played in New York, with the remainder in Lyons. During the early rounds of the New York leg Kasparov was supremely dominant, his early successes epitomised by the second game. Here Kasparov made clear that he

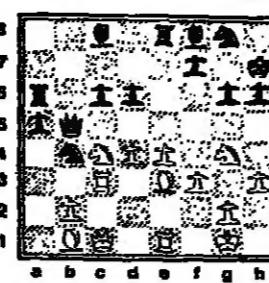
believed Karpov's weak point to be his black defence in the Ruy Lopez opening, which he used repeatedly during the match.

The key moment of the second game came when Kasparov sacrificed his bishop on move 25 with the move *Bxh3* (see diagram). This move started a mighty offensive that swept Karpov away. In spite of his brilliant start, the remainder of the leg did not go all Kasparov's way.

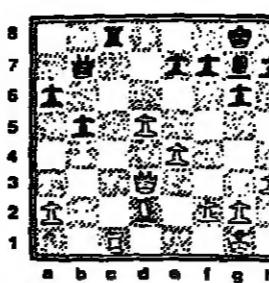
He became bogged down in Karpov's excellent defensive technique and threw away many promising positions as he became frustrated at his opponent's refusal to crack under pressure. Kasparov lost game 7 after an uncharacteristic blunder, and after 12 games the scores stood level at six points each.

With the switch to Lyons the weight seemed to fall from Kasparov's shoulders. After 17 games, however, Karpov was still even. In

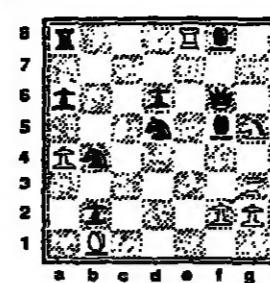
game 17 (see diagram) with



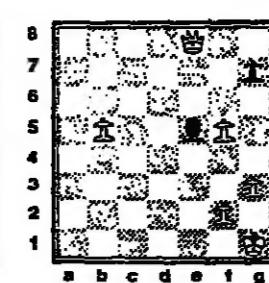
Game 2: the position before 25 Bxh3



Game 17: the position before 26 Rc6



Game 20: the position before 34 Qxh6+



Game 22: the position after the agreed draw

queen. Although Kasparov's lead is unassailable, the prize fund of \$3 million (£1.6 million) will be divided according to the final number of points scored by each player. Game 23 is scheduled for tomorrow and game 24 for Monday.

□ The Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament, Britain's premier grandmaster event, opens at Hastings today.

Kasparov (White) Karpov (Black)
White Black
1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6
4 c3 b6
5 e5 c5
6 Bc4 d5
7 Nbd2 e5
8 e6 f5
9 Nf3 g5
10 d4 h5
11 Nbd2 g5
12 e4 f5
13 Nc4 e4
14 c4 d4
15 d5 e4
16 f3 f5
17 Rxf3 Rxf3
18 axf3 Rxf3
19 Nc3 Rxf3
20 Nc4 Rxf3
21 Nc3 Rxf3
22 Nc4 Rxf3
Draw agreed

Leading article, page 11

Karpov, which gives him an edge in mental agility. Furthermore, Karpov has never quite adjusted to the modern era of computer information, preferring to play on his own instincts. Kasparov, however, is a computer addict, whose headquarters are stacked with computer database chess moves. Kasparov has not just accumulated such information, he also knows how to retrieve it and utilise it to great effect.

All this, however, is unlikely to end Karpov's quest

for revenge and it will be surprising if he does not return as a challenger in 1993 when Kasparov must defend his title.

□ The deciding game 22 started with Kasparov, playing white, using the Ruy Lopez opening. By move 27, Karpov had established a phalanx of black pawns in the heart of the white position.

Kasparov, however, then sacrificed a piece to transmute the game and on the 39th move forced a draw by

perpetual check with his

London Zoo in funding appeal to avoid closure

By MICHAEL HORNELL

LONDON Zoo, which last year had a record operating deficit of £4.9 million, might not survive without government financial help.

Government sources indicate, however, that more money is unlikely after a 1988 agreement that visitor attractions at the zoo should be self-financing, although the education and science department will continue to support the research-oriented Institute of Zoology with a grant next year of £1.4 million.

Only two years after the environment department provided a "final" rescue package of £10 million and absolved itself of future support, the Zoological Society of London is expected to appeal for more before the end of the financial year in April.

At a meeting in March between Lord Peyton of Noyes, treasurer of the society, and Chris Patten, at that time the environment secretary, Mr Patten merely advised further management consolidations. Lord Peyton said: "We can't be sure the zoo will survive until the end of the century. One or two more

years of bad results and the shadow of closure would return. There are major problems and it's difficult to see our way round them."

The £4.9 million operating deficit, which covers London Zoo and its sister wildlife centre, Whipsnade Park, was reduced to a more manageable £2 million after account was taken of interest payments. However, dire predictions are again surfacing at the zoo where attendances have fallen to 1.2 million a year from more than 3 million in the zoo's heyday in 1950.

Lord Peyton said: "When we went to see Chris Patten, we saw the situation as grave. We still have money but it was prudent to see him. We shall need to present the matter again to the new secretary of state, Michael Heseltine." In

Mr Heseltine the society might hope for a sensitive response, for he served on the board of Zoo Operations Ltd, the society's subsidiary company, until his recent appointment to the cabinet.

As part of the strategy agreed in 1988 between the society and the government, Zoo Operations was formed as the society's operations arm to provide what visitors want.

Visitor-oriented aspects of management were contracted out to the Grant Leisure Group, which has been responsible for much of the revolution at the zoo in the late 1980s. More than £4 million has also been spent in a marketing campaign to bring new dimensions to the zoo.

In spite of these innovations, however, David Jones, director of London Zoo and Whipsnade Park, said: "For various reasons we have not been able to increase our income to the point where we are not losing money. If we don't get further support, then clearly we have to think about the options, which might include closing down."

The society has also been hampered by the zoo's history, not least the fact that much of the zoo consists of protected buildings, and by the objection of local residents to leisure expansion. Planning restrictions and local pressure could lead to a switch of resources to Whipsnade where there is more scope for development. That could mean the end of London Zoo, where it costs £6,000 a year to feed an elephant and £15 an ant out of a total feeding bill of £750,000.

The council funds the four big London orchestras on a concert-by-concert basis. The LPO's grant of £465,000 has been reduced by 0.65 per cent to £462,000, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's increased by 5.5 per cent from £435,000 to £460,000. The Philharmonic's grant also rises, by 3.4 per cent from £340,000 to £369,000. All of the orchestras serve the South Bank and none will get anything from the Arts Council's new enhancement fund.

The fourth, the Barbican-based London Symphony Orchestra, will get an 8 per cent increase on its basic grant of £600,000, rising to £648,000, plus £400,000 from the enhancement fund, making a total increase of 7.5 per cent.

John Willian, managing director of the LPO, said: "I find this allocation very puzzling and we will be discussing it with the Arts Council." The LPO is to become the South Bank Centre's resident orchestra in April 1992.

"We understand that we shall get a substantial increase in our subsidy for when we move into the South Bank, but the reasons for our basic grant being reduced at this point is difficult to understand."

LPO grant from Arts Council reduced

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Philharmonic Orchestra has had its Arts Council grant cut for next year in what is seen as a criticism of its programme.

Yesterday's announcement of the last big grants for 1991-2 will be taken as a further slight to the South Bank Centre in the council's distribution of £194 million of subsidy to its 173 clients.

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Indian winter: to complement an exhibition on the Raj, the National Portrait Gallery is running a series of Indian dance classes for children until tomorrow. The teacher Sujata Banerjee is seen with Raphael Pepper, a pupil

Makers want new-car tax scrapped to boost sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR makers are urging Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to drop the 10 per cent tax on new cars to revive flagging sales and encourage the scrapping of old, more polluting vehicles.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that sales of new cars will fall further next year after a decline of more than 12 per cent this year caused by high interest rates and the recession.

Sales, which peaked at 2.3 million last year, are expected to fall to 1.9 million next year, putting further pressure on manufacturers already bringing in short-time working and redundancies.

The 10 per cent special car tax brings in about £2 billion for the Exchequer. Car makers are arguing, however, that the government should trade the tax income for reviving Britain's biggest manufacturing

industry. In turn this would encourage the introduction of more environmentally friendly vehicles. The society says that models in showrooms create only half the pollution of those built a decade ago, with fuel consumption up to 30 per cent better.

A recent survey for the Royal Automobile Club showed that half the pollution blamed on cars came from under 17 per cent of vehicles, which were suffering from poor engine maintenance and tuning.

The fleet industry, however, says that older cars cannot be tuned to cut pollution and should be forced off the road by tighter regulation. Bill Hamer, managing director of the contract hire company ACL, which runs fleets totalling 120,000 cars, says that older vehicles are

needed to bring the benefits of "green" engine technology on to the roads more quickly.

He said: "More than eight million cars are seven or more years old. At the present rate old cars are finally laid to rest, it will be after the year 2,000 before Britain's national fleet complies with either today's new car emissions standards or the progressively stiffer ones affecting models built later in the decade."

Car manufacturers believe that Mr Lamont will move against the special car tax in his March budget but want him to adopt a general policy of less taxation on cars.

Simon Foster, director of the society, said: "If the government and the public are really longing to see the introduction of cleaner technology, then it is available in the range of new cars coming on to the roads."

The society is being supported by his union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, and the Commission for Racial Equality.

The tribunal is due to hear the case on January 7. The council is refusing to comment until the proceedings are complete.

Canadian brings discrimination case

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A RACE relations tribunal in Cardiff is to hear the first case in Britain of alleged discrimination against a person because he is Canadian. The hearing will be the culmination of a six-year dispute at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Professor Arthur McConnell, head of strings at the Cardiff college, has brought the case against South Glamorgan county council because he says that his career has been blighted. He alleges that Peter Fletcher, the former principal, removed his main responsibility

and tried to oust him from his job out of prejudice against Canadians.

A second action, against Mr Fletcher, was deemed out of time at a preliminary hearing in March. Professor McConnell is, however, pursuing a separate action alleging defamation by his former principal.

The dispute dates back to the arrival of Mr Fletcher at the college in 1984 and his rapid introduction of changes.

Professor McConnell was among the first staff to feature in the reorganisation. He said:

"I was in charge of the orchestra and most of the musical activities. They hired someone to take my place and took the substance of my job away from me."

Relations between the two men continued to deteriorate after the council held an inconclusive enquiry into their dispute. A final warning of dismissal against Professor McConnell was withdrawn after threats of industrial action by lecturers and the intervention of council officials.

Mr Fletcher took early retirement last year and is now

NEW INVESTMENT RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE

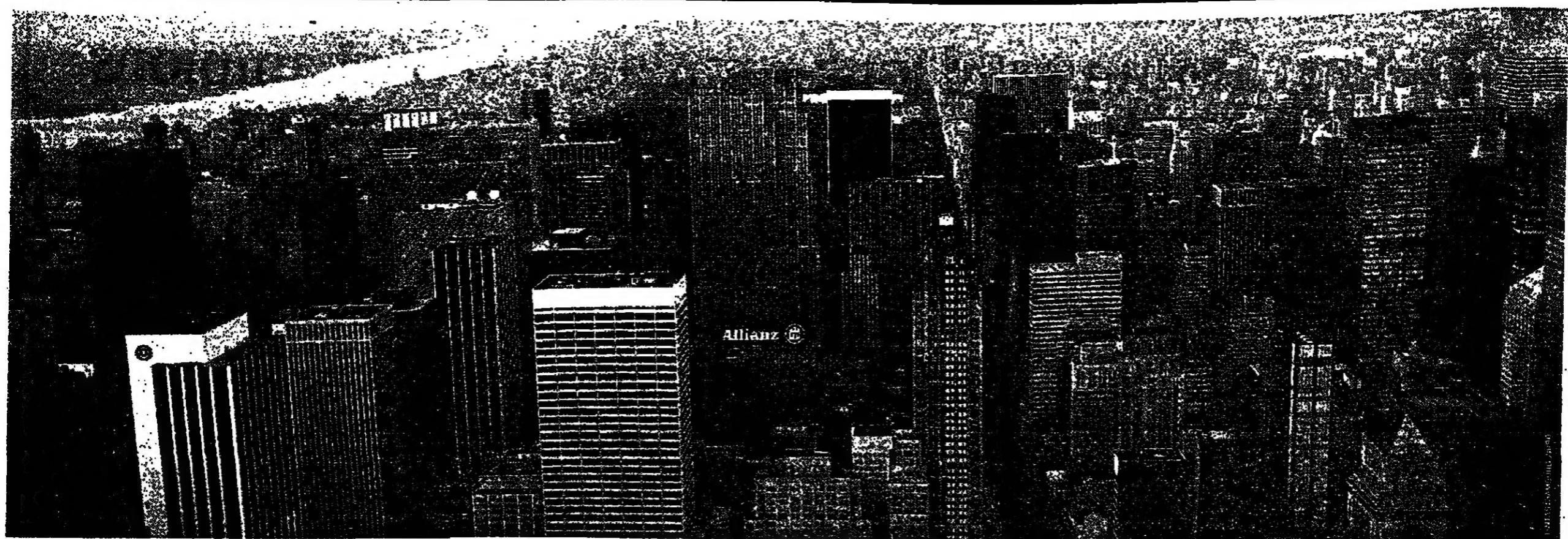
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PREMIUM 60 ACCOUNT	INTEREST PAID	GRASS RATE	NFT RATE
High interest account with easy access £50,000+ £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £4,999	Annually	15.00%	11.25%
Medium interest account with easy access £25,000+ £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £4,999	Annually	14.00%	10.50%
Low interest account with easy access £10,000 - £4,999	Annually	13.50%	10.12%

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Monthly income account £25,000+ £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £4,999	Monthly	14.00%	10.50%
Monthly income account £25,000+ £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £4,999	Monthly	13.50%	10.75%
Monthly income account £25,000+ £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £4,999	Monthly	13.00%	10.90%

SUPER SHARE PLUS ACCOUNT	INTEREST PAID	GRASS RATE	NFT RATE

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premiums. 1976-1980: 100% of premiums. 1981-1985: 100% of premiums. 1986-1990: 100% of premiums. 1991-1995:

Tax evasion case against ex-minister stuns Tokyo

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party was stained by scandal again yesterday, when Toshiyuki Inamura, a former cabinet minister and a sitting MP, was indicted for allegedly evading 1.7 billion yen (£6.8 million) in taxes.

The big sum has shocked the Japanese, even though politicians rank among the country's richest and least respected people.

The indictment is a setback for the Liberal Democratic warlords. They had been hoping to find portfolios in the imminent cabinet reshuffle for MPs suliced by last year's Recruit bribery scandal. They felt that the MPs tainted by this had served their time in the wilderness, and could now be welcomed back on the front benches. Mr Inamura's reminder of the blurred border between politics and money in Japan will make such a return politically difficult.

Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, said last night that he disapproved of Mr Inamura's actions. Opposition parties demanded Mr Inamura's resignation from parliament. Tokyo public pro-

secutors claimed yesterday that Mr Inamura dodged the taxman after running up profits of 2.8 billion yen from allegedly dubious stock deals carried out on the advice of Mitsuhiro Kotani, a colourful share speculator who was arrested recently on charges of insider/share trading.

If convicted, Mr Inamura faces a backdated tax bill and penalties of more than 2 billion yen.

Mr Inamura has been watching the chaos develop around him from a secret address in Tokyo. Without a complex legal process, MPs cannot be arrested while parliament is in session. But Tokyo public prosecutors gave him little doubt about his future when they raided his home and offices last week, and then interrogated him on his stock dealings between 1986 and 1988.

For the first half of this period he was environment minister in the cabinet of Yasuhiro Nakasone. Through those three years, Mr Inamura was allegedly trading in stocks almost every day, often from his office in the parliament building. He carried out more than 1,000 share deals, involving more than 50 million shares. Environment ministry officials cautioned him against receiving streams of stockbrokers at his office.

Mr Inamura prepared himself for yesterday's well-signposted events by resigning from the Liberal Democratic Party on Wednesday, though he is not expected to give up his seat in the lower house.

Before formally pressing charges yesterday, public prosecutors would have convinced themselves that Mr Inamura had used his profits for himself, buying fancy apartments, more shares or letting them earn interest at the bank. Had the money been used for Mr Inamura's political expenses, he may well have escaped the authorities.

Japanese politicians raise huge amounts of cash to court constituents with presents for their weddings and gifts at new year. Money raised for such political activities in Japan may be controversial, but is free of tax. The many MPs and cabinet ministers entangled in the Recruit scandal managed to avoid prosecution because they seemed to have used the windfall profits they gained from buying cut-price Recruit shares for political purposes.

One who did not, Takao Fujinami, once Mr Nakasone's chief cabinet secretary, allegedly used his gains to buy property. Mr Fujinami is awaiting trial for his links to Recruit.

Mr Nakasone himself was close to Mr Kotani, who is proving something of an embarrassment to his former friends and associates. One of Mr Nakasone's aides is reported to have made 120 million yen from trading in the shares of a company which Mr Kotani took over.

Cash lures to make Japanese multiply

By JOE JOSEPH

HAVING lost its faith in the birds and the bees, the Japanese government is taking procreation into its own hands before disaster strikes the nation. Officials, who subscribe to the apocalyptic view, say that unless drastic action is taken soon, the Japanese race will be wiped out in a millennium. Nobody accuses the Japanese of thinking short-term.

To persuade couples to make more babies, the annual budget, due to be approved by the cabinet within the next few days, has set aside an extra 50 billion yen (£19.6 million) to make reproducing more tempting. That is one-third more than in this year's budget. More child allowances and subsidies to nurseries and child-care centres are the lure.

The panic follows the results of Japan's latest census, published at the weekend, which put the population at 123,611,541, up just 2.1 per cent over the 1985 tally. It is the lowest growth rate since the second world war — disconcerting for a country that is used to producing more and more of everything. Worse, the birth rate has sunk to a record low of 1.57 children per woman.

Tokyo fears that if the trend continues, Japan will have too few taxpayers to foot too many old people's pensions, and a scarcity of labour.

Black Christmas taps ritual roots

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Scarcely have Jews in America finished celebrating Hanukkah, and Christians celebrating their Christmas, when millions of American blacks begin what they call "Kwanzaa". Kwanzaa cards sit side by side with new year's missives in stationery shops; radio hosts discuss the seven key principles of Kwanzaa; and churches and museums holding Kwanzaa events.

Sometimes known as the "Black Christmas", the festival is in fact a secular celebration of "African-American" heritage dreamt up by a black power figure in 1966. For a week between Boxing Day and new year, black American families gather nightly to replay elements from an ancient African harvest rites. "Kwanzaa" is an abbreviation of the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza", meaning "first fruits".

"It's not really African, it's African-American," said George Calderaro of the Studio Museum in New York's Harlem, which had to turn more than 100 people away from its Kwanzaa celebration this year. "It's not observed in

Africa. It's a uniquely African-American phenomenon." The festival was the brainchild of Maulana Karanga, a civil rights leader who now teaches at California university.

For seven nights, families gather to light a red, black or green candle, the colours of black nationalism, in a seven-pronged candle-holder similar to a Jewish menorah, and sip from a "unity cup" called a *kiombe*.

Each night celebrants discuss one of seven principles, the *Nguzo Saba*, laid down by Mr Karanga after extensive research into African customs. The principles are *umoja* (unity), *kujichagulia* (self-determination), *ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *ujamaa* (co-operative economics), *nia* (purpose), *kaumba* (creativity) and *imani* (faith).

Black nationalists contend that Kwanzaa eschews the cult of personality characteristic of Christmas. The festival could, however, fall victim to its own success and become just another commercial celebration of shopping.

Dickensian dark, page 10



Taking hold: a Hong Kong fireman grabbing Cheung Ah Chi, aged 19, and dragging her away from the parapet of a 15-storey building as she prepared to jump to her death. Police said that the girl wanted to commit suicide after an argument with her boyfriend

Manila wins right to 'illegal' Marcos wealth

From A CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA

THE Swiss supreme court yesterday dismissed five years of appeals from the family of the former president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, and ruled that \$270 million (£142 million) held in Swiss banks should be returned to the Philippines.

But the transfer is conditional on a Philippines court bringing the late president's

widow, Imelda Marcos, and other members of the family to trial on fraud charges, the court ruled.

Guy Fontanet, the lawyer representing the Philippines government here, said he thought this was "possible but difficult". He said: "More than 1,200 people were killed in the last attempt at a *coup d'état* against President Aquino, after the court decision. It is not clear whether

she is prepared to risk more bloodshed, or whether any of the Marcos family could be brought back for trial."

Mrs Marcos and her children have sought asylum in Hawaii. Manila brought action in Swiss courts for the return of the money, but a series of appeals in lower courts delayed the proceedings and sent the case to the supreme court.

"The Marcos family have never made the slightest gesture towards a compromise in this matter," Mr Fontanet said. "In fact, they have done everything to delay things. They can do no longer."

He said the money held in Swiss accounts had been "illegally acquired" and, for example, \$70 million held in an account in Fribourg was siphoned off by Marcos from reparations paid by the Japanese government to the people

of the Philippines" after the second world war.

The court ruling turns over to the Aquino government all bank documents seized when Marcos was toppled. The money will follow as soon as a trial of the family has been held in the Philippines.

Bankers said this was the first time the Swiss government had agreed to a country's request to return money from personal numbered accounts.

Rangoon sacks dissident MPs

From REUTER IN BANGKOK

BURMA'S military government has sacked eight members of parliament who fled to the border to set up a provisional government, Burmese state radio said. The eight were Sein Win, prime minister of the rival government declared at an insurgent base last week, and the members of his cabinet.

They won their seats in elections last May which gave the opposition a huge victory over the military-backed party. The ruling Rangoon junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has since prevented the opposition from assuming power, and the parliament has not convened.

The judicial court has ruled that there is substantial evidence to deduce that the persons... have formed a parallel government and have made contacts and are co-operating with insurgent organisations which are engaged in armed struggle against the state," the broadcast, monitored here, reported. "Their status as elected People's Assembly representatives has therefore been annulled."

Sein Win, chairman of the Party for National Democracy, announced the formation of the so-called National Government of the Union of Burma at a guerrilla base at Manerplaw on the border with Thailand on December 18. It links the politicians with 21 dissident and ethnic groups.



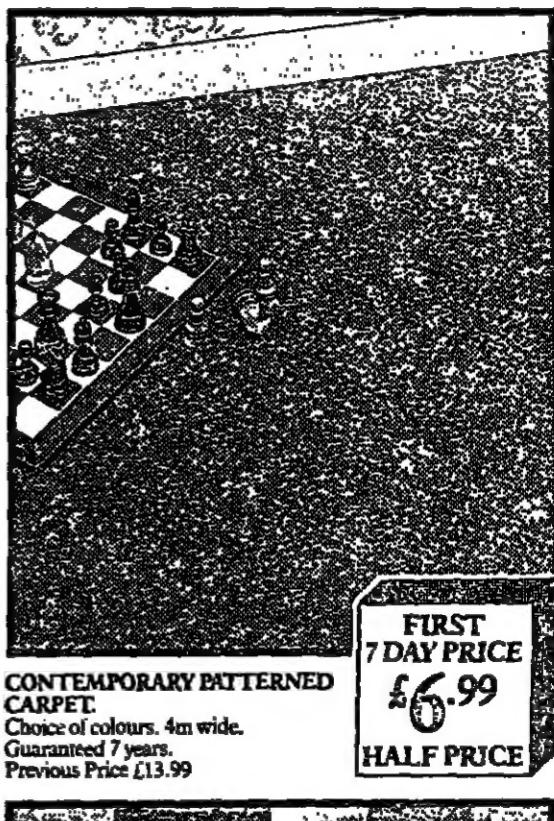
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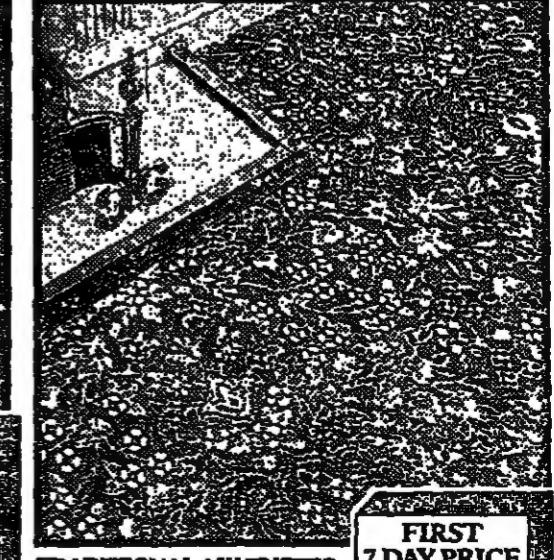
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British academic sees Kremlin at centre of East's upheaval

THE view that Moscow initiated or encouraged the revolutions in Eastern Europe a year ago is supported in a report published today. Mark Almond, lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford, says that the downfall of the Ceausescu regime in Romania at Christmas last year was essentially a coup, although the plotters would not have acted when they did without the courage of protesters in Timisoara and Bucharest.

In *Retreat to Moscow*, written for the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, he says it is clear that the Soviet leadership did not observe events in Eastern Europe passively. Moscow and local agents in the former East Germany appeared to have intervened to forestall a Chinese-style confrontation between Erich Honecker's leadership and the

people. He says there is considerable evidence that senior figures in Eastern European regimes, particularly those linked to promoters of perestroika, did much to precipitate the revolutions and were encouraged by the Kremlin and the KGB. "From Moscow's point of view it was important to avoid an uncontrollable popular explosion which might draw in Soviet forces against its will and damage the standing and influence of the USSR in the West."

Mr Almond says that apparatchiks remained entrenched everywhere except at the top, although they remained politically invisible. "Disenchantment in Eastern Europe with a capitalism whose capitalists are none other than the old communists is growing," he says, arguing that this made it harder to revive a spirit of

With communist rule in Albania on the brink of collapse, Andrew McEwen considers Moscow's role in orchestrating the new order in its former satellite nations

self-reliance and enterprise. Gerald Frost, director of the institute, says in a preface that evidence for doubt about the spontaneity of the uprisings includes the disclosure by President Havel that the revolution in Czechoslovakia began with a KGB conspiracy.

Other elements were the discovery that the National Salvation Front now governing Romania existed long before Nicolae Ceausescu's downfall, and evidence that President Gorbachev intervened to topple the Honecker regime in East Berlin. In Albania,

the last bastion of stalinist rule in Eastern Europe, the new opposition Democratic Party yesterday demanded a referendum to decide the date of the country's first multiparty elections after the communist Albanian Party of Labour refused its request for a delay.

Sali Berisha, a founder member of the Democrats, said they had lodged a petition demanding the referendum to the presidium of the People's Assembly, which decreed on Monday that the poll should go ahead as planned on February 10. He said: "We have

asked for a referendum of the entire country so the people can decide whether to postpone the election. If the people say 'no', we will accept this. But the people must decide."

The Democratic Party, founded by students and academics on December 12 as the first non-communist force for 46 years, wants elections put back to May. "We have no means or resources to organise a real electoral campaign in 45 days," Mr Berisha said, adding it was unclear whether his party could raise a candidate for all 250 seats in the assembly.

"The Party of Labour concentrates almost all the electoral resources of this country in its hands, to the point where it has a five to one advantage over the opposition. Many people disagree

with this situation," he said. A statement from the Democrats said their party had more than 10,000 members and was organising branches nationally. But it complained that activists were being hindered by communist party and state authorities and renewed charges of "unjust and illegal censorship" by the communist-controlled media. The statement was issued at a press conference in Tirana, where two Democratic activists removed a large white bust of Albania's late stalinist leader, Enver Hoxha, from the podium before the meeting began.

The Democratic Party was set up a day after President Alia unexpectedly bowed to student protests and gave the go-ahead for a multiparty system. He told a conference of the Party of Labour

Retreat to Moscow is published by Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, 13-14 Golden Square, London W1R 3AG, price £5.

Russian vote puts financial squeeze on Soviet Union

From MARY DEJESKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union appeared threatened with financial disaster yesterday after the country's biggest republic, the Russian Federation, voted to withhold more than 80 per cent of its planned contribution to next year's central budget. The decision, taken by the Russian parliament late on Wednesday, constitutes an open challenge to central economic control and was at once condemned by President Gorbachev as threatening the "disintegration not only of the economy, but of the country as a whole".

The Russian Federation, like most of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, has repeatedly argued that it is milked by the centre, claiming that funds are misspent on maintaining inefficient industries and a vast central bureaucracy. Russia has also been locked in conflict with Moscow over control of the republic's natural resources, including coal, oil and precious metals.

The Soviet Union's central budget was always going to experience difficulties next year, with the most optimistic estimate forecasting an internal deficit of 59 billion roubles, roughly the same as that predicted for this year. This, however, required full contributions from the republics, a sharp reduction in capital investment, lower defence spending and price increases.

As soon as he had signed the budget proposals into law, Mr Yeltsin signalled his defiance of the centre by flying to a remote area of northeastern Siberia. His place on the platform of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies was vacant yesterday, and Mr Gorbachev announced acidly: "Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin left for Yakutia at 0040 this morning."

The Russian move leaves the Soviet budget for next year, which was to have been



Food flight: a consignment of British food aid for Moscow being loaded on board an Aeroflot aircraft at Stansted on Christmas Day. Part of the load, containing coffee and biscuits, reported to have gone missing, has been located in a warehouse at Moscow airport

Missing food aid found in airport warehouse

By ANDREW MCEWEN

TEN tons of food aid from Britain destined for needy Russians turned up in a warehouse at Moscow airport yesterday after the Soviet embassy in London followed up a report in *The Times* that part of it had gone missing.

It was still unclear, however, whether British human rights groups which sent the consignment would succeed in their aim of having it distributed by a former Soviet dissident rather than the Soviet authorities.

Grigory Karasin, counsellor at the embassy, said the food was not properly labelled and the authorities did not know what to do with it. However, aid workers in London said

that the three-ton consignment mentioned in yesterday's report had been clearly addressed. It appeared that another consignment of seven tons had been sent on the same plane and that the two may have been confused.

Both the embassy and aid workers expressed concern that gifts might stop if the public feared they would not

beliefs but now leads a group on Moscow city council. The aim was to avoid a risk that it might be diverted or stolen. Representatives of the groups said yesterday that Mr Karasin assured them on December 10 that this would be allowed. Mr Karasin acknowledged this but said the groups failed to inform him that they had sent the aid.

Danny Smith, director of Jubilee Campaign, a Christian group, said he was pleased the food had been found, but the groups could not compromise on the distribution of the issue. He was invited to the embassy for talks.

Bill Grubbin, of the Movement for Christian Democracy, said he watched the consignment loaded on to a Soviet aircraft at Stansted airport on Christmas Day, and there appeared to be a label on each box. Joyce Simson, of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, said the labels were clearly addressed to Mr Ogorodnikov at Moscow city council.

reach those in need. Mr Karasin said that 70 tons of food had been delivered and distributed.

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Stalemate in Gulf diplomacy despite 'readiness' to talk

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

THE American chargé d'affaires, Joe Wilson, said yesterday that he and the Iraqis had not spoken to one another for several days regarding dates for a meeting, although President Saddam Hussein said yesterday he was ready for "serious and constructive dialogue with the United States, 'based on mutual respect'."

Mr Wilson vehemently denied one news report that he had been holding talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, and other foreign ministry officials. "It is a very sensitive time," Mr Wilson said, "but there have been no contacts recently."

He insisted that he had "not given up on the diplomatic process" but Western officials say they still see no sign of an imminent meaningful dialogue between Baghdad and Washington.

With only 18 days to go before the UN deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, America and Iraq have both expressed readiness separately to hold a direct dialogue. But neither appeared able to find agreement on either the timing for an exchange of visits by their foreign ministers or on the

Meanwhile, President Saddam, after talks yesterday with his top foreign envoys

Following the arrival in

Baghdad of a senior Soviet government official, a Soviet embassy spokesman said most of the 2,300 Soviet civilians working in Iraq would be allowed to leave for home within a week. The spokesman said talks with the Iraqis were "going smoothly".

"We expect all but a few hundred of our citizens to leave Iraq by chartered aircraft no later than January 3."

The deputy chairman of the Soviet council of ministers, Igor Belousov, arrived yesterday with the Soviet deputy oil and gas minister, as well as the head of the Soviet foreign ministry's Middle East section. The official Iraqi News Agency said that Mr Belousov "lauded Iraq's initiative to allow Soviet experts to stay or leave as they wished".

The two sides had been at stalemate for several weeks over the issue of penalties to be paid to Iraq for broken Soviet contracts by workers in the oil and power industries. Neither Soviet nor Iraqi officials would say how they had resolved their differences.



Taking stock: Trooper Shawn Fowler, from Preston, Lancashire, of the 4th Armoured Division, eating a sandwich after driving his newly arrived Challenger tank from its transporter in Saudi Arabia yesterday

Public posturing masks continued search for peace

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ON CHRISTMAS day, President Saddam Hussein sent Joe Wilson, the US chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, a cake shaped like a yule log and a floral arrangement of purple and lavender zinnias. Mr Wilson sent Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Christian foreign minister, a bottle of Californian wine. The exchanges were small, but telling.

With Christmas over, the sobering reality is that just 18 days remain for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or precipitate a bloody Middle East conflict. US officials say they see not the slightest sign of President Saddam backing down, while President Bush is said to have "crossed the Rubicon" and reconciled himself to war. But to suggest that it is now all over, bar the shooting, is wrong. Behind the beligerent public postures of both sides, the search continues for a way to avert bloodshed, and over the next two weeks there may be some surprising developments.

For reasons the White House would not divulge, Mr Bush broke his Camp David holiday for a brief trip back to Washington. That included a

meeting with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet ambassador, while a senior official said in an interview that the US was considering a couple of unspecified moves to strengthen the message to Iraq that it was deadly serious about going to war.

To date, President Saddam has proved remarkably shrewd in knowing just how far he can push the Americans, and the US official said it was entirely possible that the Iraqi leader may make some move between now and January 15 to forestall a US attack.

US strategy is based on the belief that the Iraqi leader is still not convinced that a divided America would go to war over Kuwait.

The quickest way to dispel that misconception would be to seek congressional approval for military action. It would be a high-risk move, given that many Democrats want sanctions to be given more time, but it is one Mr Bush is considering and he may gamble that Congress would not dare undercut the nation's stand, and that of the United Nations, so late in the day.

Rock show ban angers French

From A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

A TELEVISION documentary broadcast yesterday described as "very bitter" the mood of French frontline troops in the Gulf after Saudi authorities banned at the last minute two Christmas concerts by one of France's veteran rock stars.

A crew from the Antenne-2 channel accompanied the 48-year-old singer, Eddy Mitchell, on his abortive desert tour. Their report, shown at peak time last night, showed the deep disappointment of foreign legionnaires at the most forward French positions at Miramar, 50 miles from the Iraqi border, after the first performance was cancelled.

Le Figaro said: "The discontent is general among the servicemen who do not understand the reason for this concretement with the Saudis."

One French officer was quoted as saying: "We are perhaps going into the firing line for them and they deprive us of a concert."

Colonel Mercier, the second-in-command of the 1st Regiment of Spahis, an armoured cavalry unit, said the cancellation "is going to deal a blow to morale. One never ought to have promised something that could not be kept".

The French defence minister sought to boost morale during his Christmas visit by announcing that all French troops will be awarded a special "overseas medal" for Gulf service as well as a pay bonus for hazardous duty.

After the two concerts were cancelled, Mitchell, who first made a name for himself in the late 1950s and was known for his opposition to the Algerian war in the 1960s, borrowed a guitar from a Foreign Legion NCO and made an unauthorised visit to some of the troops, serenading them briefly.

Build-up in Jordan

Amman - Jordan is beefing up troops along its frontier with Israel amid fears that the Jewish state might become involved in a Gulf war, official sources said yesterday. They said troops and tanks were being moved into place in case Israel attacked Iraq through Jordan.

The sources said Mubarak Badran, the prime minister of Jordan, during a visit to Syria over a week ago, discussed coordinating their defences in the event of an Israeli attack. Jordan fought Israel in 1948 and 1967, and in the latter war a ceasefire line was declared along the Jordan valley. (Reuters)

Kuwait warning on peace efforts

Peking - The Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sabah al-Sabah, said it was too late for Gulf peace initiatives from China or any other country. (Catherine Sampson writes).

He was speaking in Peking, where the Emir of Kuwait, Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, is holding talks with President Yang Shangkun of China. Peking repeated its call for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Flights full

Manama - All flights to Europe and America from Bahrain are full from January 2 to January 15, the UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait. British Airways and Gulf Air said here. (AP)

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Philip Howard

All doublets and pose

Journalists are chatters and preachers, at their VDUs if not necessarily in their social life. C'est *notre métier* to produce an off-the-peg opinion or description at the drop of a deadline. Coleridge, in addition to his many other virtues and failings, was an incorrigible journalist. Charles Lamb was a generally acquiescent audience to the garrulous pontificator. One day, when Coleridge had been banging on at length and at random, he suddenly interjected the question: "Charles, have you ever heard me preach?" "I've never heard you do anything else," replied the patient Lamb.

Our trade is to produce words fast – preferably persuasive, interesting and amusing words, but at any rate fast. The most powerful piece in the world is useless if it misses the deadline. As a consequence, we are prodigal with words, using a garden hose rather than a syringe to make our point. We never use one epithet if we can. We think of half a dozen to spray at the reader. A most important part of writing is revising, pruning superfluities that are not pulling their weight. It is a practice that journalists find repugnant. We want to tap the piece out and shoot it to the composing room as quick as we can. That old news editor, Horace, recommended keeping some piece of nine years before publishing it. Nine years is a bit long for a daily paper, but the principle is sound.

Our journalists' liberality (prodigality?) with language is producing a vice in modern English that we might call duplication. It consists of never using a single word if there are a couple of yoked words that give the same meaning nearly as well. We tend to write ground rules, when what we mean is rules. Ground rules originally had a specific sense in sporting jargon, meaning the idiosyncratic rules devised for a particular ground or course. From some baseball yarbs: "In the olden days there was a ground rule which only allowed two bases for a hit over this fence." It was too squatty a phrase to be left to the sporting pages, and it has now virtually replaced plain rules in journalism. The only point in it is if there is some difference in these rules from other similar ones: "The ground rules of American press conferences are different from ours." Nine out of ten instances of ground rules in the blats are just any old rules. Ground rules have become an irritating cliché.

Role model we have picked up not from the sports pages but from the dodgy jargons of sociology and psychology. In those disciplines, it is used as a technical term to mean someone who, in the performance of a role, is taken as a model by others. "If the teacher was a role model, parents were obviously unaware of it." I do not see that

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Boxing Noon, and Hampstead Heath resembles nothing so much as the gale-scattered covers of all those comic annuals ripped yester-morn from their urgent stockings. So many bright new Mickey Mouse gloves! So many bright new Rupert Bear scarves! So many bright new Garfield earmuffs and Kermit boots and Peanut pullovers! The world, new-laminated, is crying "Hello, Chums!" Cavorious gay in the drizzled gloom, all this iridescent gittery – on adult and child alike – seems to bespeak not so much Christmas as some medieval Haberdashery Fayre upon which the city's cordwainers and hosiers and mercers and drapers and hatters have descended to propitiate their diverse tutelary gods and flog their latest lines.

It is all so cartoon-jolly that I do not immediately notice that something is missing. What makes me finally notice it is the singularly poignant sight of a small boy sledging down the sodden East Heath slope towards the Vale of Health. He has new yellow moonboots on and a new Snoopy flying helmet. He has a new sled. He could be on the cover of the *Beano Annual*, were it not for the one thing he does not have. He does not have snow.

Poor little beggar. He is making a valiant fist of it, shoving himself off from just beneath me, lurching down the wet grass, slaloming the bushes with expert toe and mitten, bumping to a halt after a dozen yards, then struggling up again, his muckede sled trailing erratically behind him on its sodden string. Had he snow, he would not stop at all; he would hurtle on, shrieking joyously, scattering the pirouetting skaters on Hampstead Pond and finally fetch up breathless, in Gospel Oak. Because, if he had snow, there would be skaters on Hampstead Pond today, rather than the goosebumped matmen flaunting their traditional bragadocio in the unfrozen ooze.

Maybe, in his head, he has it. The imagination, at seven, is rich. Maybe he goes down the hill with six huskies in front and a pack of wolves behind. Maybe the unflogging effort is all about

Why I have embraced Islam



Salman Rushdie explains his affirmation of the Muslim faith and his decision to restrict publication of *The Satanic Verses*

A man's spiritual choices are a matter of conscience, arrived at after deep reflection and in the privacy of his heart. They are not easy matters to speak of publicly. I should like, however, to say something about my decision to affirm the two central tenets of Islam – the oneness of God and the genuineness of the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad – and thus to enter into the body of Islam after a lifetime spent outside it.

Although I come from a Muslim family background, I was never brought up as a believer, and was raised in an atmosphere of what is broadly known as secular humanism. (I should mention that most Indian Muslims affirm the value of the secular principle, seeing it as their best safeguard as a minority group in a predominantly non-Muslim country.) I still have the deepest respect for these principles. However, as I think anyone who studies my work will accept, I have been engaging more and more with religious belief, its importance and power, ever since my first novel used the Sub poem *Conference of the Birds* by Farid ud-din Attar as a model. *The Satanic Verses* itself, with its portrait of the conflicts between the material and spiritual worlds, is a mirror of the conflict within myself.

In short, I have been finding my

own way towards an intellectual understanding of religion, and religion for me has always meant Islam. That journey is by no means over. I am certainly not a good Muslim. But I am able now to say that I am Muslim; in fact it is a source of happiness to say that I am now inside, and a part, of the community whose values have always been closest to my heart. I have in the past described the furor over *The Satanic Verses* as a family quarrel. Well, I'm now inside the family, and now Muslims can talk to Muslims and continue the process of reconciliation that began with my Christmas Eve meeting with six Muslim scholars.

This meeting, described in some sections of the western press as a defeat, was in fact a victory for compassion, understanding and tolerance. For over two years I have been trying to explain that *The Satanic Verses* was never intended as an insult; that the story of Gibreel is a parable of how a man can be destroyed by the loss of faith; that the dreams in which all the so-called "insults" occur are portraits of his disintegration, and

explicitly referred to in the novel as punishments and retributions; and that the dream figures who torment him with their assaults on religion are representative of this process of ruination, and not representative of the point of view of the author. This is not a simple disavowal of my work, but the simple truth, and to my great pleasure it was accepted as such.

The six scholars and I agreed that the controversy over *The Satanic Verses* was based on a tragic misunderstanding, and we must all now work to explain to Muslims everywhere that neither I nor my work have ever been inimical to Islam. They agreed that over the last 15 years I have in fact shown myself to be an ally of Muslims, whether in Kashmir, or the rest of India, or Palestine or in Britain, where I have frequently written and broadcast against all forms of discrimination.

"We want to reclaim you for ourselves," one of the scholars said, and I replied that I, too, wished to reclaim them. The mood of the meeting was generous and even affectionate, and it

moved me greatly. I am told that already, in many Muslim countries and communities around the world, that mood of affection has begun to replace anger. Goodwill is replacing ill-will. That is cause for celebration.

As a contribution to that new atmosphere of goodwill, I have agreed not to permit new translations of *The Satanic Verses*, nor to publish an English-language paperback edition, while any risk of further offence remains. This is because the process of peace will take time. The crisis has been long, bitter and deep. Reconciliation after such a crisis takes time. I have sought to create the atmosphere for that reconciliation.

As to the question of total withdrawal of the book, I would say that, in spite of everything, *The Satanic Verses* is a novel that many of its readers have found to be of value. I cannot betray them. Even more important is the recognition of Muslim scholars that the book is not a deliberate insult. Had they felt otherwise, I might well have thought again. As it is, I believe the book must continue to

Dickensian darkness seeps to the heart of New York

Charles Bremner on a city where freewheeling attitudes to social disaster are beginning to wear a little thin

After the hollow merriment of New York's most melancholy Christmases for years, it was almost a relief to switch on the early-local news on Boxing Day and bathe in the usual week-day headlines: "Fire tragedy strikes Bronx family..." intoned the cheery reader, using the standard formula employed by all five local stations after a quiet night in Gotham City. Identical words could be heard on the rival channels. There followed news that four people were wounded in a Christmas-night shoot-out among patrons at a suburban cinema, and that the city council had awarded its school bus contract to a Mafia-owned company. What, no Trump item and not a mention of John Gotti, those regulars in New York's cast of colourful rogues and villains? Not to worry, there was a passing reference to the Dapper Don, as Mr Gotti is always called in newscasts. He had, we learned, enjoyed his turkey along with other prisoners being held without bail over Christmas.

It may seem ghoulish, but the horrors of the local news provide New Yorkers with a sort of black comedy, a familiar commentary on the state of the city. There is a village-like cosiness in keeping up with the antics of its favourite personae, most of whom go by first names or aliases. As well as the Don and the Donald, the list includes the Reverend Al Sharpton, the street activist, Leona Helmsley, the hotel owner, Dave Dinkins, the mayor, Ed Koch, the former mayor, even The Jogger (she who was raped in Central Park). It is almost as if the city, now deep in one of its periodic crises, takes a perverse pride in its role as the most extreme of everything the country has to offer New York has grown blasé about ills that would send lesser towns into despair. However, in recent months, this old spirit has been wearing thin as the social fabric of the metropolis has been stretched to breaking point.

Much of the gloom comes from the depression of a middle class being pummeled for the excesses of the Eighties. More than 100,000 New Yorkers have lost jobs over

the past year in the financial and service industries which boomed in the last decade. House prices, inflated beyond reason, have collapsed amid predictions that they are unlikely to recover before the next century. One sign that things are really bad is the complaint this month from the psychotherapy profession that its members are failing on hard times through a shortage of clients. New Yorkers are staying away not only from the shrink, but from the shops, where the future put a cramp on Christmas spending.

The sense of loss this season has been heightened by the deaths in recent months of such figures from the civilised past as Irving Berlin, Greta Garbo and Leonard Bernstein. Most of all, however, the despondency springs from a level of violence that seems to have returned the city to a darker age. Some 2,200 people have been murdered this year, including 32 taxi drivers shot in robberies and 10 children hit by stray bullets.

With its wild contrasts of squalor and opulence, toughness and sentimentality, New York has always had a Victorian feel and never more so than at Christmas, when the trees glow outside the Rockefeller Centre, the Empire State Building does its lighting and children gather around the shopwindows of Fifth Avenue. This year, however, the atmosphere has become positively Dickensian, so much so that citing Dickens parallels has become a party game. The author came to the future Big Apple in 1842 and wrote in his *American Notes* of its gay crowds, its pigs promenading on Broadway and its many paupers.

You can still find gaiety in abundance, from such seasonal fixtures as the Radio City Music Hall to the thriving cabarets and jazz clubs of Greenwich Village. But the briefest sortie into the streets can turn up tableau straight from *Oliver Twist*. As in the 19th century, the wretched and ragged are on almost every corner

with begging cups in hand, often troubling the conveyances of the wealthy as they crawl through the traffic jams. The more entrepreneurial beggars use sales tools such as cassette players that play "Joy to the World" and other commerce-tugging jingles.

In another throwback to harder times, a tuberculosis epidemic appeared this season among the well-to-do, after apparently breeding among the thousands of vagrants who sleep in doorways, subway stations and in cardboard boxes. If you get to the office early enough you witness one of the city's more curious new rituals. Janitors at the tallest skyscrapers start their day rousing the homeless from their boxes before hosing down the pavement. This season, some have been handing out doughnuts and coffee on their rounds.

Further out, charity workers

have been trying to bring festive cheer to the so-called "mole

people". These are whole villages of down-and-outs who never surface from the disused railway tunnels of Manhattan. And if Dickens had strolled the seasonal streets of 1990, he would probably have wiped away a tear on hearing the strains of the Children of Homicide Victims Choir.

It is always difficult to distinguish reality from the myth in New York, given the city's theatrical sense of itself. Many paradoxes are at work. New York remains, for example, the only American metropolis with a living city soul. When crime and decay became too much in Detroit, Miami or Los Angeles, in the Sixties and Seventies, the middle classes moved to the suburbs. There has been some flight from the five boroughs of New York, but as Christmas approached a defiant spirit asserted itself. As in wartime, people in the media, entertainment and financial worlds have undertaken a campaign to raise morale.

According to the consensus behind all the cheer-leading, New York is far from morally wounded. New York has been here before, many insist, and each time has managed to save itself, usually by assimilating a new flood of immigrants. In the past, the arrivals were Irish and Central and East Europeans. Now the city is absorbing its biggest influx of foreigners since before the first world war, most of them from India, Latin America and Asia.

The mix, called a "gorgeous mosaic" by Mayor Dinkins, is often an explosive one, and it adds to the rough edges. There are times, for example, when it is hard to find a taxi driver or shop assistant who speaks any English. But as long as all these people are clamouring to come, say the optimists, all will be well.

Tings have not really changed much since Dickens excused the town's raw side. "It must not be forgotten," he wrote in 1842, "that New York is a large town and that in all large towns a vast amount of good and evil is intermixed and jumbled up together."

Tomorrow
Mary Dejean reports on Christmas in Moscow.

A woman without honour

Having missed out on Mrs Thatcher's resignation honour list, what odds on Shirley Williams, that earlier leading lady of British politics, appearing in the New Year list? It is generally accepted that former cabinet ministers such as Mrs Williams can have a life percentage almost on request. The former education secretary has recently allowed that she would not be wholly averse to "making a contribution in the Upper House". That, many believe, is about as strong a hint as a would-be peeress can decently give.

Mrs Thatcher dismissed out of hand any notion that she could propose someone such as Mrs Williams, who had made an appearance on the Grunwick picket line. In any case, the convention is that an ex-minister should be proposed by the party in whose cause he or she gave cabinet service. In Mrs Williams's case that means Neil Kinnock. But the Labour leader has laid down stern conditions for nomination of his former colleague, who left Labour in 1981 to found the SDP. They can be broadly summed up as "over my dead body".

What does here at Christmas is rain. We should make this a meteorological virtue. Let us have a British Santa in cheery yellow cikins and sou'wester, ho-ho-hoing through the drizzle in a dry terry towed by six big cod. Let fake raindrops twinkle down our shop windows from autumn on, let our cars show robins on floating logs and coaches in flying spray, and each display, advertisement and grotto anticipate the joys of snug dry firesides bonding happy families together against the cats and dogs beyond.

Sing I'm Dreaming of a Wet Christmas, Cliff, and let's be done with it.

need for more working peers. Mrs Williams, who is now married to the Harvard political scientist, Richard Neustadt, has, despite her continued appearances on *Question Time* and *Any Questions?* at least half-emigrated. How can Ashdown press for the appointment to the legislature of someone normally resident for months on end in another country?

Friends say that Mrs Williams would be willing to spend more time here "if she was given good reason to". Whether such an argument has convinced, or whether she will be left ready for the ceremony but without a best man prepared to give her away, we shall soon see.

● The London Borough of Sutton is proud of its record on environmental matters and recently advertised for a "cycling officer" as "one of the many council green initiatives". There was no shortage of applicants, given the attractive inducements: a contributory-leased car scheme and car loan facility.

One of the phew

Peter Cushing will come out of retirement tomorrow to save a radio tribute to Lord Dowding, the Battle of Britain hero. Only days before Saturday's broadcast of the play *Human Conflict*, Radio Kent found itself short of two actors. Cushing, who lives in Kent, was approached to play a second world war pilot obsessed with restoring the reputation of Dowding, the commander-in-chief of Fighter Com-

mand. At the same time, Alan Dobie, veteran of 120 television dramas, agreed to take the part of Dowding, last portrayed by Oliver in the film *Battle of Britain*.

The broadcast will be Cushing's first role for some years, although it seems he took little persuading. "I looked forward to taking part in such a moving tribute to a much maligned man to whom so much is owed," he says.

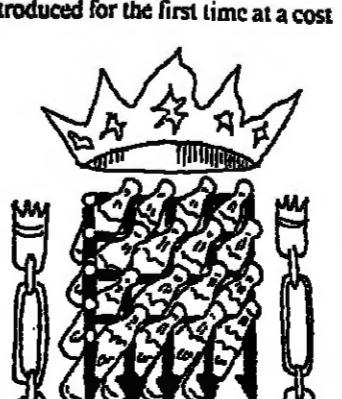
Michael Bath, the producer, says: "Both are working for virtually nothing. They are doing it out of respect for Dowding. The play portrays him as one of the great men of the 20th century, the man who won the Battle of Britain."

Booth boom

While most High Street stores are pinning their hopes on the January sales making up for the disastrous Christmas, at least one retail outlet in London seems to have broken its sales record. The souvenir kiosk at the House of

Commons is still counting the takings after the Christmas spending spree, but last year's figure of an average of £20,000 a day throughout December has almost certainly been surpassed. Both John Major and Mrs Thatcher were among the customers this year, and extra staff were taken on to deal with the rush.

An estimated 24,000 bottles of whisky, each marked with the House of Commons portcullis, passed over the counter during the month. Christmas crackers, introduced for the first time at a cost



of £15 a box, were also bestsellers. Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the Commons catering committee, says: "We've had ministers queuing this year for presents. It was bedlam every day, and I anticipate we have broken our own record. The recession in the High Street has still not caught up with the Palace of Westminster."

Sabbath slippage

There will be spluttering over ecclesiastical breakfast tables this morning with the arrival of the latest *Catholic Herald*, which contains a trenchant leader headlined: "The case for Sunday trading". Of John Major's suggestion last week that the law should be reviewed, Peter Stanford, the editor, writes: "The debate must not be allowed to centre on the view of the Sabbath held by a vociferous minority who would prefer to turn the clock back to a pre-consumer age, now gone for ever."

Those who might be the target for the *Herald*'s strictures responded yesterday more in sorrow than in anger. Ken Hargreaves, the Conservative MP and leading supporter of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said: "It is bound to cause a rumpus. The 'vociferous minority' presumably includes the Catholic Church. I am astonished." Liberal Democrat member David Alton, another prominent Catholic, said: "If they're arguing there should be a free-for-all I would strongly disagree with them."

But the *Herald* has one compelling argument up its sleeve, for it seems that the church itself is not averse to earning an honest penny on the Sabbath. "The gift shop in Westminster Cathedral is open for business on Sundays," points out the *Herald*. "Can it be said that a shop inside a church is permissible when to buy dried flowers in the streets outside is not?"

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HALF WAY TO WAR

The seven-week "pause of good will" granted to Iraq by the United Nations Security Council on November 30 is more than half spent. But there is as yet no sign of any decision by Saddam Hussein to pull out of Kuwait. The UN's goodwill gesture has been accompanied by President Bush's proposal of direct talks to convince Saddam of the certainty of war unless he withdraws unconditionally by January 15. So far, Saddam has treated both the pause and the offer contemptuously.

The release of foreign hostages, however easing to their families' hearts, was politically significant only in the context of his game plan, which is to weaken public resolve in the West. He seems to expect that those who, in Mr Bush's words, are ready to "go the extra mile" for peace will go all the way to appeasement. He still insists that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq. To show the Arab world that he can dictate to a superpower, he has rejected 15 proposed dates for the arrival of the American secretary of state, James Baker, in Baghdad.

But for all his prevarication Saddam above all needs to keep his military machine intact. The conclusion must be that he still hopes to break the international alliance and hang on to Kuwait without war. He is unlikely to be gambling on winning a war. His recent conference of ambassadors should have reinforced the voices from within his own ranks who warn that such a war would probably be lost, and with it Saddam's own position.

The West would be foolish to assume that its enemy is wholly stupid, or wholly lacking in opportunism. To be sure, Saddam must be made to understand three things: that he went a step far too far in invading Kuwait and must withdraw; that he has an American president who simply cannot march his troops back down this particular hill, having so laboriously marched them to its top; and that he cannot surmount the Middle East stage having "tabled" the Palestine issue on the strength of his Kuwaiti invasion.

He must, in other words, be denied anything which gives him immediate profit from his adventure. But the basis on which he is induced to retreat can still be a matter for sensible debate. Hence the subterranean talks taking place among American, Arab

and Russian intermediaries. Hence the importance of distinguishing a negotiated retreat, which does not surrender the essence of the conflict, from a retreat made only after the spilling of much blood.

A future for the Palestinians, however desirable in itself, cannot be negotiable within the context of the Kuwaiti invasion. Saddam has no seat at that table. The world was not waiting to be persuaded by him that the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation must be settled and he has nothing to add to the prospects for an agreed peace there. In the Gulf itself, however, he can be told what the result would be if he did withdraw completely from Kuwait: for instance that his old dispute with Kuwait concerning oil wells, islands and borders was still for negotiation between himself, a restored Kuwaiti government and perhaps other Arab neighbours.

The UN and with it the structure of international law exists not to leave threats to peace unresolved and festering, but to find solutions by peaceful means. A restored Kuwaiti government would have to accept whatever solutions might be reached by these international dispute procedures. These might include long-term leases for Gulf islands and arbitration by the International Court on wells and borders, a notoriously complex issue in the Middle East where oilfields often cross borders. The solutions might also include arbitration on Kuwaiti claims for reparations for Iraqi damage, and even longer term negotiations on security and arms deployment, by the West, the Arab allies and Iraq itself. Iraq has proved itself a threat to peace in the entire region; the threat will not be removed until Saddam's ambitions have been tamed.

There is plenty here into which diplomacy can still sink its teeth if, as is likely, Saddam becomes more aware of the military risks in the new year. None of this represents any weakening on the fundamental point of principle. The message Saddam has to bear is that there is an alternative to war — an alternative constructive both for Iraq and for the region. But this requires him to accept the immediate restoration of Kuwait as an independent state. Only the certainty of war if he refuses can bring home to him the need for peaceful alternatives.

SHOPKEEPERS' RECESSION

As Boxing Day follows Christmas, so the January sales follow Boxing Day. A sure sign of the state of the economy is the distance that these sales intrude upon December. A round-up of 80 major stores and chains shows that nearly two-thirds began their so-called new year sales well before the end of December. The Chancellor need look no further for his recession.

Equally strange is the spectacle of customers buying goods before Christmas which are then slashed in price only two days after full-price presents have been exchanged. Clearly, the economic principles of the free market clash with the unbreakable custom of giving in the appropriate season, regardless of cost.

This year's winter sales also see the disappearance of another piece of tradition. From Monday, the old 5p coin ceases to be legal tender, replaced by the smaller new 5p piece. With the passing of the original coin goes the last vestige of the old shilling.

Some traditions die harder. Harrods commendably refuses to start its sale, the Ascot of January bargain-hunters, until a week today. But not many stores in our high streets can rely on being kept warm by the disposable income from the well-heeled customers and tourists who are still attracted to Britain's flagship retailer. For most, Christmas has been a hard, dry season in

which the cold wind of recession has sometimes been the only thing stirring. Hard-pressed shopkeepers have found the recession is biting, and biting deep.

Many retailers are still reeling from the impact of the commercial poll tax, the uniform business rate. Since a high proportion of annual retail sales are in the period immediately before Christmas, a poor season now will contribute to what is likely to be a considerable crop of retail failures in the new year.

The government believes that these difficulties are the medicine, albeit bitter, that Britain needs to swallow if inflation is to be reduced. John Major earlier this year summed up the government's counter-inflationary policy by insisting that if "it wasn't hurting, it wasn't working."

Britain's high street shops are hurting now, and the rash of early sales an entirely understandable attempt on their part to alleviate the anguish. Their cries should not be left unheeded. The high interest rates which are hurting them are not the only policy option open to the government. Britain entered the exchange-rate mechanism at too high a level. The government should be taking action to put that mistake right, enabling it to begin to relax interest rates. That would help Britain's beleaguered high streets and help to restore the economy.

CHAMPIONING CHESS

When his fifth match against Anatoly Karpov ends next week, the world chess championship will belong to Gary Kasparov for another three years. Karpov was forced to concede a draw (the 16th) in the 22nd game, so permitting his opponent to retain his title with two games to spare. Though Karpov had some bad luck, Kasparov was clearly the stronger player. But the time has now come for some movement in the rules by which these competitions are conducted.

Until a new challenger emerges in 1993 the champion, who will share a \$3 million purse with Karpov, has no obligations. He may devote himself to Soviet politics or to business. He may risk meeting his younger rivals in tournaments. If he chooses he may, like Bobby Fischer, never play again.

Such freedom is a reminder of the days when the championship was the personal property of the champion, who defended it against opponents of his own choosing. Steinitz, who invented the title a century ago, owned it until Lasker defeated him. So did their successors down to Alekhine, after whose death in 1946 the title briefly lapsed.

Only then did Fide, the world chess federation, collectivise the title and devise its own rules. All the subsequent champions and challengers until 1972 were Soviet, and they dared not dispute the rules. Nor did commercial sponsors, since all championship matches were played in Moscow, where spectators and the media obeyed.

Bobby Fischer during his brief reign revived interest in chess in the West, improving prizes and conditions for his peers as he did so. In 1975 he forfeited his title to his Soviet challenger, Karpov, rather than defend it under Fide rules. But the Kasparov era dawned in 1984-5. The new champion set about curing Fide down to size by leading a breakaway group of top professionals, the grandmasters' association.

So dependent is Fide on these two dominant masters that the two can, in effect, veto changes in the rules for title matches.

Yet chess at the highest level must be made more interesting for spectators and rewarding for sponsors. The New York series failed to attract the big American television networks. The system of time-outs, whereby each player can postpone up to three games for a few days at short notice, plays havoc with broadcasting schedules and is frustrating for spectators. Intended to allow for sickness, time-outs are routinely taken to recover from a severe defeat. If the length of a 24-game match demands such rests, they should be scheduled ones.

The most serious defect of the present rules, however, is the 40-move session. Many games in this match did not diverge from their established "book" openings until somewhere between the 15th and the 20th moves. Often the game is adjourned after 40 moves, after which the continuation is analysed exhaustively with the help of the players' "seconds", who are chess masters themselves, and even computers. When the game is resumed a day later, its result is often a foregone conclusion. Yet the great majority of games could be finished in the 60-move sessions which are now customary in tournament chess and in qualifying matches for the championship. Fewer adjournments should mean more creative chess and more decisive games.

As his games in New York and especially in Lyons have proved, Kasparov is a true master of the game. But his reassertion of the champion's prerogative ought not to detract from the quality of matches for the world title. No other game allows its champion such infrequent defences of his title. The public is entitled to expect world championship matches to be more entertaining.

It also matters because our fleet, according to international marine

Getting rid of Saddam the priority

From General Sir John Hackett

Sir, Public debate on the crisis in the Middle East, unhelpfully disfigured by not a little scatterbrained ranting, has never taken enough account of the central problem, which is the position, power and purpose of Saddam Hussein himself.

His clear aim is overlordship of the Arab world, based on the obliteration of Israel, strengthened by a stranglehold on 40 per cent of the industrial world's oil resources. Israel has long had nuclear weapons and will not hesitate to use them if driven to it. Saddam Hussein has for some time had nuclear weapons in preparation, and those of us who have given warning of this danger have been dismayed to learn how close it is.

The outbreak of nuclear warfare in the Middle East could only cause unthinkable and widely-spread calamity. It can hardly fail to happen if Saddam Hussein is left in power. He must therefore, in the interests of world peace, and even perhaps of human survival, be got rid of, but how?

Only his own people can pull him down. To suppose that sanctions can destroy him, or even thwart his purpose, is infantile. Iraq, at present enjoying the fruits of an unusually good harvest, can feed itself indefinitely and the shortages imposed by

embargo would never be critical within the predictable lifetime of the coalition.

What can then bring him down? Only his army. He has purged it ruthlessly at all levels and removed and even executed officers in great numbers. For the present he can rely upon it. Would he still be able to after a major military setback?

The Iraqi army could easily turn on Saddam Hussein if made to see the abyss into which he would be leading them in full-scale warfare against the West. The longer this is delayed the better President Saddam's hope of showing greater endurance than that of the coalition now arrayed against him. If his army turns against him and destroys him the probability of a successor with sufficient hardihood to try again along the same lines will be remote.

Only when he is gone, which must be soon, will present talk of political solutions, conferences, diplomacy, compromise, negotiations — all idle and even dangerous chatter today — have any real meaning. We may then, in a more stable world, even get round to having another look at UN Resolution 242 on the occupation of Arab territory by Israel.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HACKETT,
Cobley Mill,
Nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Time running out to rescue Kuwait

From Commander C. F. B. Hamilton, RN

Sir, As a Christian society we must all dread the use of force to dislodge Saddam Hussein and to negate his aim to threaten his neighbours, Arab or Jew, with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The recent call by our two archbishops is both admirable and timely. Clearly all attempts to solve this crisis must be and are being exhausted.

Nevertheless, in extremis the Christian ethic must condone and support the use of force in pursuit of moral right, as it did in two world wars. What we must all appreciate fully is that the time for these attempts is running out.

Having suffered the awfulness of August and September in the Middle East our servicemen and their allies are presently enjoying beautiful weather, but in three months will again start to suffer severe hardships.

In the climate of April and beyond military life becomes tedious. Engines overheat, radios and computer-driven equipments fail, air-

craft and ships suffer increasing failure rates and human error cannot compete with the climate for more than a few hours at a time. In particular, the ever-present requirement to wear chemical and biological protection will very severely exacerbate the problems of desert warfare.

Not all our servicemen and women live in the luxury of five-star accommodation in Riyadh, Bahrain and Muscat. The vast majority live in or near their vehicles, tanks, aircraft or ships.

If the Allied effort to counter this menace is forced into military action by Saddam Hussein's intransigence, it must complete its task before the summer and it must have the support of all our parties, our people and the churches. Is there any difference between a dictator invading British lands and those of the Kuwaitis?

Yours truly,
C. F. B. HAMILTON,
BFPO 647,
December 22.

Reasons for recession

From Mr David Edwards

Sir, You castigated Mr Lamont (leading article, December 14) for his first stonewalling speech which offers no hope to industry and no sign that the government has understood the lessons of the past five years.

The root of the present serious recession is that the government, while claiming that reducing inflation was its priority, by its actions first initiated and then reinforced inflation.

On the cost-push side the government's housing policy included a restrictive planning regime which ensured the inexorable rise of the price of housing land, while interest rate policy led to many newcomers to house ownership facing a 50 per cent rise in mortgage payments from one year to the next.

In 1989 came the community charge and a steep rise in the cost of local services for all except the occupiers of big houses.

Now the effect of two years of high interest rates has led industry to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

In search of cure for homelessness

From Mr C. John Naylor

Sir, As your editorial (December 19) rightly points out, "homelessness has many social, economic and even psychological causes".

This is why, welcome as the newly-announced government initiative on homelessness must be (report, December 19), it is essential that some of the underlying causes are also tackled. Certainly, as you stated, not all the causes can be laid at the government's door, but one certainly can.

Homelessness and unemployment are almost invariably intertwined and the recent reduction in expenditure on training has, without question, contributed to this situation.

The government is clearly right to seek value for money and to give priority to employer-based schemes. But young people with special needs — including those who have been in trouble with the law, have little education or who are disabled — cost more to train and will seldom be taken on by private-sector companies on government-funded schemes. It is these young people who, without training and support, are most at risk of becoming homeless.

This is why the voluntary sector has concentrated on providing training for these young people — those who no one else will help.

Few can disagree with the need, yet government policy is forcing the voluntary sector to cut back or stop work in this area. The YMCA, for example, which has helped train more than 20,000 disadvantaged young people, has been forced to close three centres with the loss of 60 skilled staff and a direct cost to the charity of £200,000.

Let us also acknowledge that reductions in training budgets must be restored if one of the main causes of the tragedy of homelessness is to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,
C. JOHN NAYLOR
(National Secretary),
National Council of YMCA's,
640 Forest Road, E17.
December 20.

From Mr Robin Jenks

Sir, The bishops are right (report, December 12) to urge the government to do something about homelessness. But they are mistaken if they think that cheap rented accommodation can be made available quickly. A combination of mortgage interest relief, the green

postpone the investments which could lead to greater efficiency and therefore lower prices.

The effect of all these reactions was ratcheted up by decisions on the demand side. Monetary targets were abandoned in 1985-6. While ruling out credit controls, Government decisions enormously increased the demand for credit.

Mrs Thatcher only too clearly — indeed explicitly — rejected Oakeshott's view of society as a "civil association held together by the rule of law and by the habits, traditions and loyalties inherited from the nation's past" (to use your obituary's neat and accurate summary).

Yours etc.,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Baywater Road, W2.
December 23.

Conservative gurus

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, It is hard to see how Michael Oakeshott might merit your leader-writer's description (December 21) as a "pragmatic Thatcherite". If Thatcherism needs a reputably intellectual guru, it has one in Hayek (who wrote to you, however, to repudiate the allegiance).

Mrs Thatcher only too clearly — indeed explicitly — rejected Oakeshott's view of society as a "civil association held together by the rule of law and by the habits, traditions and loyalties inherited from the nation's past" (to use your obituary's neat and accurate, summary).

Yours etc.,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Baywater Road, W2.
December 23.

Food for thought

From Mrs Diana May

Sir, A name for informal luncheons (Mr de Wilton, December 21): "Brunch" ? Or "drinks and nibbles" ?

Yesterday I responded to an invitation to a "light lunch" in a private house to find the excellent food — we grazed on the hoof as we talked — was served by a butler and three uniformed maids.

Yours,
DIANA MAY,
265 Swaleleys Road,
Ickenham, Middlesex.
December 21.

From Mrs S. M. Porter

Sir, I have found an American phrase, "heavy hors d'oeuvres", covers the occasion.

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA M. PORTER,
65 Newcastle Green,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr John Macdonell

Sir, In the old days Mr de Wilton could have invited his friends to "tiffin", a word well known to old India hands and defined in the Shorter OED as "a light midday meal".

Yours etc.,
JOHN MACDONELL,
10 North Road,
Hythe, Kent.

From Mr Kenneth Bird

Sir, I recently gave a Sunday lunch-time party. My guests were invited to "drinks and mega small chow" and none was disappointed.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BIRD,
4 Cowdrey Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mrs Sandra Lewin

Sir,

See your crying and wibby our hearts. All the work you have done for your children will not go unwarded and we return from the enemy, I am sure.

Jeremiah 31: 16 CNS

BIRTHS

REHES - On December 16th, 1990, in London, Mr. and Mrs. Silviano and Paula, a daughter Catherine Eileen A. GARDNER - On December 26th in Chelmsford, Essex, Mr. and Mrs. Harley and John, a daughter, Caroline, a daughter, Sophie, a son, Lewis and a daughter, Elizabeth, a sister for James.

FINTEZERS - On December 13th in Windsor, to James Vane-McEwan and Mrs. Madeline Julia Lucy.

GILL - On December 23rd, to Alan and Helen Rudd, a daughter, Adrian, a daughter, Fiona, a son, Alexander.

GRIMES - On December 18th, at The Portland Hospital, Sarah and Steven Solomon, and Peter, a son, Daniel Michael.

HEDGES - On December 17th in Aylesbury, to a son, Alexander Timothy.

ALLEN - On December 18th at The Royal Infirmary Hospital, in Halesowen, to John and Silvia, a son, Alexander Thomas.

MCINTOSH - On December 22nd at Peterland Hospital to Jennifer, Bryan and Ambrose, a son, James, a daughter, Briony.

MURRAY - On December 21st, 1990, to Alice and Jack, a son.

NEWMAN - On December 19th, to Linda, a son, Sam and Brooks, a son, Sami, and a brother, James Jerome, a brother for Brian.

NEWTON - On December 14th at The Portland Hospital to Elaine and Philip, a son, Daniel, a daughter, Ella, Christina.

ODOMAN - On December 26th in St. Stephen and Sean, two daughters, Lucy and Elizabeth.

OPHARA - On December 23rd, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Jennifer, Steve, Bryan and Simon, a daughter, Isabelle, Isobel Clare.

PEPPER - On December 26th, to Julie and Russell, a son, Daniel, a daughter, Sophie, a son, Rupert.

OPARA - On December 21st, at Julie and Russell, a son, Daniel, a daughter, Sophie, a son, Rupert.

PEPPER - On December 22nd, to Elizabeth and Philip, a son, Adam Phillips.

PEPPER - On December 23rd, after her mother's birthday, to Ann (née Beckett) and David, a daughter, the choosing of whom was a secret, a cause of much dissension. Suggestions on a postcard please.

PEPPER-BONHOMME - On December 21st, to Nicholas and Elizabeth Wood, and Edward of Western Australia, a daughter, Monica Alice, a son, Nathan and Joshua.

POLLARD - On December 20th, in Perton, to Helen, a daughter, Emily, a son, William.

POPE - On December 20th in St. Mary's Hospital, to June and Martin, a son, Samuel.

PRESTON - On December 30th to Penelope (née Brandon) and Paul, a daughter, Isabella.

PRESTON - On December 20th, to Sian, wife of Jonathan, a daughter, Felicity, a son, Louis, a son, a daughter, Antonia, Alexander and William.

PRESTON - On December 20th, to Julie and Russell, a son, Daniel, a daughter, Sophie, a son, Rupert.

PRESTON - On December 22nd, to Elizabeth and Philip, a son, Adam Phillips.

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Winners, losers and unfinished contests

A turbulent 1990 is reviewed by George Hill with (below) Sara Driver's diary of the year

A funny old world it is. Do you remember how, a year ago, the clenched fleshes of a political ice-age were breaking up on all sides? It was the most exhilarating moment to be alive, politically, since 1945 at least. Reform seemed to be spreading like a pandemic — communicating itself irresistibly from hemisphere to hemisphere. Steady nerve had faced out the threat of tyranny, and those whose nerves had been strong stood vindicated. There was even charter about the end of history.

Reports of its death were exaggerated. It has run on as if it had a will of its own, baffling even those who could have supposed themselves most in command of events. The world's leaders a year ago never anticipated how suddenly the two Germanies would spring together, nor how far the Soviet Union would go towards flying apart. A year ago, the White House had practically learnt to live with the Sandinistas. The trading nations had practically learnt that tariff wars hurt everybody. Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on the point of release, the saviour who would prevent his country from falling into a three-sided civil war. Mrs Thatcher was unassimilable, and Sir Geoffrey Howe had been kicked upstairs. A year ago, Kuwait was a little dry Switzerland. Change is instability. Hopeful change makes space that horrors may rush into. While Brezhnev snored in the Kremlin, the old machine creaked on. Once people dared to think, old hatreds and new greeds, as well as ideals, were at hand for them to think about.

Yet in the year's many elections in the east, millions with no experience of voting power felt their way towards firm ground, perhaps with a sure instinct than any politician could have imposed. But Yugoslavia began to revert to Balkanism. Familiar faces reappeared in control in Romania, once last year's Christmas gunfire died down. The horror of what was found in its hospitals and orphanages almost outweighed joy at the fall of Ceausescu.

Waivering between the incompatible aims of restoring freedom and saving the union, Mr Gorbachev seemed to have lost the confidence even of his closest lieutenant, Eduard Shevardnadze. The possibilities of famine and mass flows of refugees from the east make western Europe's prosperity seem almost as fragile as it did under the shadow of the bomb.

The new age had a short honeymoon.

odds with the instincts of most of her MPs on two great issues: Europe and the poll tax. A host of small issues, including education vouchers, the football ID card scheme, Aids compensation for haemophiliacs, and the war crimes bill, helped to create the impression of indomitable will-power fizzling in a vacuum, increasingly out of touch with the mood of colleagues and voters, and with the art of the possible.

Labour forged ahead in the opinion polls. Numb resignation reigned among Tory MPs. Yet Mrs Thatcher's dominance was such that it was scarcely possible to imagine her no longer in charge. Probably only one man could have broken the spell. After the savaging from the dead sheep (more in sorrow than anger, and timed with precision), everything had changed.

The leadership election that followed was surely the most extraordinary instance of concerted political ingenuity, pragmatism and serendipity in Britain this century. Nobody could have planned or predicted the blind flow of instinct which led the party from Thatcher to Major, and to a healing of wounds which might have been crippling. In a redemp-

tive ritual reminiscent of the Golden Bough, the regicide struck the fatal blow, and was himself struck down, so that the virgin knight might succeed.

Share prices rose at the news of her fall. The fickle public applauded (for the moment). On the day she accepted that she must step down, she gave a performance in the Commons that was an unsurpassable display of heart and resilience. Later, at the moment of her successor's triumph, she was present half-hidden behind the upstairs curtains of Number 11, like an ancestral ghost leaning down from the heavens to give a silent blessing.

As power seeps from Whitehall to Brussels, it is hard to imagine that Westminster will ever see political theatre of quite the intensity we have witnessed since 1979. As for the virgin knight, or grey man: with one bound Jack was free, to smile at poor trade figures, discard policies without shame, and (most important) to retain policies while sounding completely different.

The year's other great piece of political theatre was the sight of Nelson Mandela walking down the road from prison, impressively upright, slim and self-

contained, and wearing an impressively well-cut suit. Over the months that followed, he had to call on all his fortitude not to be borne down by the exposure and the compromises of being the one man indispensable to resolving South Africa's grief.

Nicaragua and Ireland were two more countries where the ballot-box confounded the pundits. Nicaragua's voters dismissed the Sandinistas almost at the moment of their success, while Ireland's rejected the familiar raddled faces of Irish politics to choose someone fresh as possible. But in India neither voters nor politicians seemed able to reverse a slide into corruption and sectarian violence.

This was the year of Gazza's tears. In the World Cup, England rose from a morass of bungling to a place among four semi-finalists of almost equal merit. Watching England's match against the radiant underdogs of Cameroon, half the nation would have been shaky qualifiers in Norman Tebbit's test of national allegiance. Underdogs in sport had a good year: Scotland at Murrayfield, England in the West Indies, and above all, Buster Douglas in Tokyo (he gained his knockout, took his champion's

purse, and hastened off to enjoy it). Nick Faldo was no underdog, clinching his second Open. But Navanilova was, taking a record ninth Wimbledon title, for time makes every champion an underdog in the end.

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Over there for Queen and country: one of the first British soldiers in the Gulf, awaiting the uncertainties of the new year following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait

MPs on two great issues: Europe and the poll tax. A host of small issues, including education vouchers, the football ID card scheme, Aids compensation for haemophiliacs, and the war crimes bill, helped to create the impression of indomitable will-power fizzling in a vacuum, increasingly out of touch with the mood of colleagues and voters, and with the art of the possible.

Sadam's aggression and Mrs Thatcher's overthrow were alike being virtually unforeseen until the moment they happened. Yet in hindsight, political life in Britain throughout 1990 appears shot through with premonitions of the doom of Thatcherism. A party which has made economic management its stock in trade inevitably finds recession hard to explain away. Each ministerial resignation weakened the impression of infallibility. But the trouble went deeper. The prime minister was at the

instincts of most of her

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Share prices rose at the news of her fall. The fickle public applauded (for the moment). On the day she accepted that she must step down, she gave a performance in the Commons that was an unsurpassable display of heart and resilience. Later, at the moment of her successor's triumph, she was present half-hidden behind the upstairs curtains of Number 11, like an ancestral ghost leaning down from the heavens to give a silent blessing.

As power seeps from Whitehall to Brussels, it is hard to imagine that Westminster will ever see political theatre of quite the intensity we have witnessed since 1979. As for the virgin knight, or grey man: with one bound Jack was free, to smile at poor trade figures, discard policies without shame, and (most important) to retain policies while sounding completely different.

The year's other great piece of political theatre was the sight of Nelson Mandela walking down the road from prison, impressively upright, slim and self-

contained, and wearing an impressively well-cut suit. Over the months that followed, he had to call on all his fortitude not to be borne down by the exposure and the compromises of being the one man indispensable to resolving South Africa's grief.

Nicaragua and Ireland were two more countries where the ballot-box confounded the pundits. Nicaragua's voters dismissed the Sandinistas almost at the moment of their success, while Ireland's rejected the familiar raddled faces of Irish politics to choose someone fresh as possible. But in India neither voters nor politicians seemed able to reverse a slide into corruption and sectarian violence.

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John Beattie, Professor Norman Gibbs, Law: Charles Maclean, Politics and Civil Service: Lord Bruce-Campbell, Religion: The Rev Ralph Abercromby, The Very Rev "Bill" Williams, Science and Medicine: Professor Kenneth Newell, Sport: Peter Jones, James Macnabb.

MAY

Home, May 6: London's 4.5 million telephone subscribers go with the new 071 and 081 dialling codes. Abroad, May 4: The Latvian parliament voted to declare independence from the Soviet Union, and Estonia followed a day later. Romania's first free elections for more than 50 years were won by the National Salvation Front. 28: Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Federation.



Arts and Entertainment. May 15: Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr Gachet* became the most expensive painting in the world when it was sold for £49.7 million in New York.

Crime, May 14: Seven civilians were injured when an IRA bomb exploded outside the Directorate of Army Education offices at Eltham, London. 16: An army sergeant was killed and another seriously injured when an IRA bomb blew up their mini-bus outside an army careers office in Wembury. 17: Christian Brando, the son of Marlon, was arrested on suspicion of murdering his sister's boyfriend. 27: The IRA shot dead two Australian tourists in The Netherlands after mistaking them for off-duty British servicemen.

Sport, May 17: Manchester United beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to win the FA Cup. 22: The Whitbread round the world race was won by the New Zealand yacht Steinlager 2, skippered by Peter Blake. The first all-woman crew in Maiden, skippered by Tracy Edwards, finished second in their class. 24: Bob Robson announced that he would resign as the England team manager after the World Cup.

Weather, May 17: The hottest May Day since records began in 1875, with temperatures reaching 27C.

Died, Armed Forces: Lt-Gen Sir Reginald Denning, Major Gen Field, Arts: Sammy Davis Jr, Sir Reginald Goold, Jim Henson, Jill Ireland, David Rapaport, Teddy Tinting, Max Wall, Business and Industry: Sir Geoffrey Eley, Captain J.W.G. James, Politics: William "Bill" Kays, Sir Anthony Williams, George Young, Religion: Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Sport: Rocky Graziano, Writers, Journalists and Broadcasters: Bob Damers-Walker, Bill Sowerbutts, David Wood.

JUNE

Home, Jun 14: David Waddington, the home secretary, announced that the convictions of the McGuire family for running an IRA bomb factory could not be upheld and would be referred to the Court of Appeal. 15: The High Court ruled that the government acted lawfully when it charge-capped 21 Labour councils. 21: Following the Calcutt report, David Waddington, the home secretary, gave British newspapers a year to set up a voluntary body, the Press Complaints Commission, which would implement a rigorous code of practice.

Abroad, Jun 8: Czechoslovakia's first free elections since the war were won by Civic Forum. 12: The parliament of the Russian Federation voted to declare that the republic had the right to secede from the Soviet Union. 30: Oil supplies to Lithuania were restored after the republic agreed to suspend its declaration of independence for 100 days.

30: The Deutschmark became legal tender in East Germany.

Crime, Jun 1: An off-duty soldier was killed by IRA gunmen at Lichfield City station in Staffordshire. The IRA later shot dead Major Michael Dillon-Lee in Darmstadt, West Germany. 9: An IRA bomb exploded at the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company in London, injuring 17 civilians attending a birthday party. 16: Belgian police captured three IRA suspects in a wood near Hoogstraten. 25: More than ten people were hurt when an IRA bomb exploded at the Carlton Club in St James's Street, London.

People, Jun 15: Barbara Castle was made a life peer and Sir Peter Ustinov, Richard Hough, Jimmy Savile and Kingsley Amis were knighted in the birthday honours list. 22: Kathleen Young and Irene Templeton became the first women priests in the Anglican Church in Europe.

Politics, Jun 3: Dr David Owen's Social Democratic Party was formally disbanded. 4: The House of Lords threw out the government's War Crimes Bill.

Royalty, Jun 28: The Prince of Wales broke his right arm in two places during a polo match at Cirencester Park.

Sport, Jun 6: Pat Eddery won the Derby on Quest for Fame.

Died, Armed Forces: Major Thomas Ingram, Arts: Eric Barker, Sir James Carreras, Sir Rex Harrison, Elizabeth Harwood, Raymond Huntley, Joe Loss, Angus McBean, Leonard Sachs, Dame Eva Turner, Eddie Waters, Business and Industry: Lord Palmer, Educator: Professor William Kinsella, Dr Hugh Sinclair, Law: Master Antony Harwood, Chancellor the prime minister of the Rev E. Garth Moore. Politics and Civil Service: Sir Robert Armitage, Lord Fletcher, Sam Hughes, John Jennings, Ronald Lewis, Lord O'Neill of the Maine, Lord Ronson of Shoreditch. Religion: The Right Rev Gordon Savage, Writers and Journalists: Jon Akass, Robert Carvel, Tom Hopkinson, Irving Wallace.

30: The USSR.

Home, Jul 19: The NUM announced it would sue Arthur Scargill and Peter Hain in court in order to recover money raised by foreign miners in support of the British miners' strike. 8: Nato leaders meeting in London issued the London Declaration, formally ending the cold war.

Abroad, Jul 12: Boris Yeltsin resigned from the Soviet communist party.

Crime, Jul 2: Imedha Marcos and Adnan Khaoghi were found guilty at the end of a trial for fraud in New York. 24: Three policemen and a Roman Catholic nun were killed when an IRA landmine exploded near Armagh in Northern Ireland. 30: Ian Gow, the Conservative MP for Eastbourne, was killed when an IRA bomb blew up his car in East Sussex.

People, Jul 25: It was announced that the Rt Rev George Carey, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, would succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury. Politics, Jul 14: Nicholas Ridley resigned from the cabinet after publication of an interview in the Spectator in which he said the Germans were aiming to "take over the whole of Europe".

Crime, Aug 10: Marion Barry, the mayor of Washington, was found guilty of possessing cocaine, but the judge decided a prison sentence for Donald Rumsfeld, Anthony Barnes and Sir Jack Lyons were found guilty at Southwark Crown Court of breaking the law while organising the Guinness takeover of the Distillers group.

People, Aug 24: Brian Keenan, held hostage in Beirut for 1,595 days, was released.

Royalty, Aug 4: The Queen Mother celebrated her ninetieth birthday.

Sport, Aug 14: India was saved from defeat in the second Test by Sachin Tendulkar, aged 17, who scored 119 not out. 28: David Gower claimed 157 not out at the Oval, and England won the Test series 1-0. Steve Blackwell won a gold medal for a record javelin throw of 57.3 metres at the European athletics championships in Split, Yugoslavia. 29: Kriss Akabusi broke David Hemery's British 400m hurdles record, set in 1968, to win a gold medal in Split.

Weather, Aug 3: As Britain's highest ever temperature, 37.1C, was recorded at Cheltenham, nine people drowned in accidents around the country.

Died, Sheikh Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Earl of Huntingdon, Armed Forces: Colonel Eithib Hobirk, Brigadier Patrick Hobson, Vice-Admiral Sir Aubrey Mansergh, Rear-Admiral Sir David Martin, General Lameul C. Shepherd, Arts: Pearl Bailey, Max Gordon, Robert Raud, Business and Industry: Robert Holmes & Court, Educator:

Professor Wreford Watson, Politics and Civil Service:

Lord Caradon, Religion: Father Alkisandri Mon, Science and Medicine: Alfred Meyer.

Sport: Sir Leonid Hutton.

Writers, Broadcasters and Journalists: A.J.P. Taylor.

30: The USSR.

Home, Oct 12: The Zebrugge disaster trial collapsed at the Central Criminal Court. 23: Edward Heath returned from Baghdad with 37 freed British hostages.

Abroad, Oct 2: Germany celebrated reunification. 8: At least 21 Arabs were killed when Israeli security forces opened fire during clashes between Jewish and Palestinian factions in Jerusalem.

Arts and Entertainment.

Oct 16: A.S. Byatt won the Booker Prize for her novel Possession.

Business and Finance, Oct 8: Britain joined the European Exchange-Rate Mechanism as interest rates fell by 1 per cent. 12: Inflation reached an eight-year high of 10.9 per cent. 24: The directors of Poly Peck International applied for the appointment of administrators and six days later detectives from the Serious Fraud office raided the

company's Mayfair headquarters.

Crime, Oct 24: Six soldiers and a civilian were killed when the IRA forced two "human bombs" to drive to army checkpoints in Northern Ireland.

Abroad, Aug 2: Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait at dawn and began massing along the border with Saudi Arabia.

Following a naval blockade of the Gulf, Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, refused to allow foreigners to leave Kuwait and Iraq. 5: All EC members, America and Japan banned imports of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude oil, and the UN voted to impose mandatory economic sanctions on Iraq; the ANC announced it was suspending its armed struggle against South Africa; Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, was dismissed by its president. 7: The US government sent a fleet to send ground, naval and air forces to Saudi Arabia. 10: Arab leaders voted to send troops to Saudi Arabia. 12: Douglas Crookshank, a Briton, was shot dead by Iraqi soldiers near Saudi Arabia's border with Kuwait. 19: Iraq began rounding up foreign hostages to use as a "human shield" at key installations. 22: Any embassies in Kuwait that had not complied with Iraq's order to close were surrounded by Iraqi troops and had essential supplies cut off. 25: The UN Security Council voted unanimously to authorise a naval blockade of Iraq under UN auspices. 31: President F.W. de Klerk announced that South Africa's governing National Party would in future be open to all races.

Payment of £742,000 from funds held by the International Miners' Organisation in Paris. 24: The government's use of charge-capping was declared unlawful by three appeal court judges. 27: Britain and Iran announced that they would resume diplomatic links.

Abroad, Sep 2: 200 British women and children were allowed to leave Baghdad aboard an Iraqi Airways jumbo.

6: 247 British women and children flew out of Iraq after a 500-mile drive from Kuwait. 9: President Bush and President Gorbachev issued a joint statement calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. 10: Prince Johnson and his rebel group captured and killed the president of Liberia, Samuel Doe. 17: EC countries ordered the expulsion of all military staff from Iraqi embassies after Iraq invaded the residences of foreign diplomats in Kuwait. Four days later, President Saddam ordered the expulsion of military attaches from five countries, including Britain and France. 18: Winnie Mandela was charged with kidnapping and section 17 in connection with the abduction of four black youths. 25: The UN Security Council imposed an air blockade on Iraq.

Business and Finance, Sep 20: Asil Nadir, the chairman of Poly Peck International, was questioned by the fraud squad. Shares in the company were suspended. 26: Alan Bond resigned as the executive chairman and director of Bond Corporation.

Crime, Sep 18: Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry was seriously wounded by the IRA in his home near Stafford. 21: Nicolae Ceausescu was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his part in the deaths of civilians during the Romanian uprising in December.

Politics, Sep 7: Michael Forsyth, the chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, was promoted to Minister of State at the Scottish Office.

Science, Medicine and Health, Sep 24: Ofthal in pig fed was banned after confirmation that it had contracted BSE.

Sport, Sep 18: The IOC announced that the 1996 Olympics would be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Died, Lady Home of the Hensol, Armed Forces: Vice-Admiral Sir Kaye Edder, Lieutenant-Colonel Hilary Hook, General Sir Alan Wheeler, Major-General Norman Wheatley, Air Vice-Marshal Irene Dunne, Athene Seyler, Lord Swann, Patrick White, Business and Industry: Robert Holmes & Court, Educator:

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Home, Nov 12: In the light of Lord Cullen's report into the Piper Alpha disaster, the government decided to switch responsibility for safety monitoring from the energy department to the Health and Safety Executive. 27: The Sunday Correspondent closed.

Abroad, Nov 8: President Bush announced he was sending three more aircraft carriers and an additional 100,000 troops to the Gulf.

10: Chandra Shekhar was sworn in as India's eighth prime minister. 13: An RAF pilot, killed when his Jaguar bomber crashed in the desert, became the first British serviceman to die in the confrontation. 18: Saddam Hussein said he would release all 2,000 foreign hostages between Christmas Day and March 25. 18: In Paris a non-aggression treaty and an arms treaty reducing conventional weapons in Europe by almost a third was signed at the 34th Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Arts and Entertainment, Nov 12: Sky Television and BSB announced that they were merging. Mick Jagger married Jerry Hall in Bally.

Business and Finance, Nov 15: Sir Ralph Halpern left the Burton group with a £2 million golden handshake; the number of unemployed rose to 1.7 million after the big rise since 1986.

Crime, Nov 7: Terry Marsh was accused of the attempted murder of Frank Warren. 10: Four men were killed in an IRA ambush in County Armagh. 11: Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad found 80lb of Semtex explosives in two parked cars in north London.

Politics, Nov 1: Sir Geoffrey Howe resigned. 8: Ireland elected Mary Robinson to be its first woman president. 13: In a speech to the Commonwealth, announcing his resignation, Sir Geoffrey warned that the prime minister was risking Britain's future by her attitude to Europe. 14: Michael Heseltine announced he would challenge Mrs Thatcher for the leadership. 20: Mrs Thatcher failed to win a clear lead over Mr Heseltine in the first round of the leadership election. Both candidates declared they would not then name their supporters in a second ballot.

22: Mrs Thatcher announced her resignation as prime minister. John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary,

announced they would stand as candidates for the second ballot. 27: Mr Major succeeded Mrs Thatcher as prime minister.

People, Oct 10: Lord McGregor, the chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority, was appointed the first chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. 11: The parliamentary under-secretary of state at the environment department, resigned after being arrested on drink-driving charges while attending the Conservative Conference in Bournemouth.

15: Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited the Soviet Union. 16: President Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Politics, Oct 18: The Liberal Democrats overthrew a Conservative majority of nearly 17,000 in Eastbourne.

Sport, Oct 16: Lester Piggott rode two winners at Chepstow a day after returning to the saddle.

Died, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al Maktoum, Left: Larsen, Le Duc Tho, Stefano Casaglia, Armed Forces: Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Irving, Colonel Sir Edward Male, Aunty Aly, Alsworth, Jill Bennett, Leonard Bernstein, Avis Bunyan, Richard Murdoch, Lord Rally, Delphine Seyrig, Politics: Norman Buchan, Lord Caccia.

30: The USSR.

Home, Nov 18: Chris Eubank won the World Boxing Organisation's middleweight title, defeating Nigel Benn. 20: Alyssa, the filly owned by the Aga Khan, was disqualified from winning the 1989 Oaks because a prohibited substance, camphor, had been found in a post-race urine test. 24: Australia retained the rugby league Ashes after a 14-0 win over Great Britain at Eland Road.

Died, Armed Forces: Air Vice-Marshal Avion Case, Commander Wilfred Dunderdale, Lieut-Col Sir Cyril Hancock, Colonel Sir David Stirling, Airse Jilly Day, Roland Edmund Irving, Colonel Sir Edward Male, Aunty Aly, Alsworth, Jill Bennett, Leonard Bernstein, Avis Bunyan, Richard Murdoch, Lord Rally, Delphine Seyrig, Politics: Robert Owen, Professor P.J. Vincent, Law: Sir Alan Maccall, Lord Pearce, Politics and Civil Service: Sir Arthur Davies, Sir Frank Figgis, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, Religion: The Rev Dr John Huxtable, Science and Medicine: Professor Tim McEvilain.

Sport: Fred Daly, Cliff Jones, Jack Petersen, Writers and Journalists: Rod Doh, Lawrence Durrell, George Gale, Lew



The final curtain: Mrs Thatcher, half-seen at an upstairs window of Number 11, looks on as her successor, John Major, enjoys his moment of triumph

Gardner, Malcolm Muggeridge, Yannis Ritsos, Anya Seton, Dodie Smith.

DECEMBER

Home, Dec 1: British and French engineers shook hands and exchanged flags as the two halves of the Channel tunnel were linked. 23: The Provisional IRA declared a "truce" about 15,000 stores opened in defiance of the Shops Act.

27: Territorial Army and army reserves assembled at reporting centres in Glasgow and Aldershot.

Abroad, Dec 2: Helmut Kohl became the first chancellor of a united Germany since 1945. 6: Saddam Hussein ordered the release of all hostages still held in Iraq and Kuwait. 7: Lech Wałęsa had a landslide victory in the first free Polish presidential election. 12: President Bush lifted a US trade ban to help alleviate food shortages in the Soviet Union. 18: Britain's ambassador and consul flew out of Kuwait. 20: The Soviet parliament approved new powers for President Gorbachev; the Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhikov, suffered a heart attack; ex-King Michael of Romania was expelled from the country only hours after returning for the first time in 43 years. 27: The Soviet parliament elected Gennady Yanayev to the new post of vice-president on the second ballot.

Business and Finance, Dec 6: Alan Bond was arrested in Perth on a charge of fraud. 10: The electricity privatisation was ten times subscribed, with 5.7 million people applying for shares. 11: The Levitt Group was placed in liquidation

and two days later Roger Levitt, its chairman, was arrested on charges of theft. 13: The work rate by 57,600, the biggest increase for nine years. 15: Asil Nadir, the chairman of the collapsed Polly Peck trading empire, was arrested, and subsequently charged, as he arrived at Heathrow from Turkey. 20: Mr Nadir was released on £23.5 million bail.

People, Dec 7: The Queen appointed Margaret Thatcher to the Order of Merit, and Denis Thatcher was awarded the hereditary title of baron. 20: Bernard Ingham and Charles Powell were knighted in Mrs Thatcher's resignation honours list.

24: Salman Rushdie issued a statement in which he said he accepted there was no God but Allah. Two days later Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared that the fatwa would still stand.

Politics, Dec 1: The Conservatives chose John Taylor as their first black prospective parliamentary candidate.

Sport, Dec 26: The 12-year-old Desert Orchid won his fourth King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, by 12 lengths, at Kempton Park.

Weather, Dec 8: Ten died and millions of homes were hit by power cuts as Arctic blizzards swept across north and west Britain. 26: Gales left thousands of

NEW RELEASES

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): Crocodile Dundee star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who decides he has refined from the old to do the new. Feature debut into supernatural whimsy, director John Cornell, with Linda Kozlowski, Cannonball Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Oxford Street (071-935 0310).

FANTASIA (U): Disney's famous visualisation of popular classic stories between the charming, the clever, and the irresistibly cute. With Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, & Aladdin, music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-936 9861) Screen on the Green (071-935 3202).

THE MAHABHARATA (U): Three-hour version of Pater Brook's stage epic which delves into legend, legends about the history of the world. Visually, fab, though the material gradually ceases to impress.

CURRENT (U): AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Parker's romantic drama about the new Zealand actress, about the new Zealand actress. Fender (071-437 4402).

• BLUE TAFFET (18): Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. Cannon Oxford Street (071-935 0310) Odeon Kensington (071-935 6544/5) Mezzanine (071-935 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American frontier in the 1860s, after Pearl Harbor, handsomely mounted. Odeon Haymarket (071-935 7357).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Nastassja Kinski moshing around Venice, hailing play to the wasted Christopher Larkin. Lubbock (071-498 5371) Curzon Soho (071-935 5108) Totesport County Road (071-935 6148) Odeon Kensington (071-935 6544) Mezzanine (071-935 6111) Swiss Cottage (0486 911 0686) Whitley (071-935 3203/3324).

• FLATLINERS (18): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director, Joel Schumacher. London (071-935 6148) Totesport County Road (071-935 6148) Odeon Kensington (071-935 6544).

• HOME ALONE (PG): Pucky kid left alone at home after blundering burglar breaks in, machine-tooled American family from writer-producer John Hughes. A big US hit. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Curzon Soho (071-935 5259) Haymarket (071-935 1527) Oxford Street (071-935 0310) Odeon Kensington (071-935 6544/5) Swiss Cottage (071-935 6111) West End (071-935 3203/3324) Whitley (071-935 3203/3324).

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• THE HOT SPOT (18): Flirting sexual fire and chemistry in a Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the driftie who uncovers a hornet's nest. London (071-935 6111) West End (071-935 3203/3324).

• THE ICICLE THIEF (PG): Greatly engaging comedy saluting Italian neo-realism and the screening of films on television. Written and directed by, and starring, Maurizio Nichetti — a man come rugby player turned poet and novelist. Metro (071-437 057).

• THE LITTLE NINNMAD (U): Disney's most recent offering of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy. Odeon Haymarket (071-935 7697) Kensington (071-932 8544/5) Swiss Cottage (071-922 5505) Warner (071-439 0791) Whitley (071-932 8333/34).

• METROPOLITAN (15): What Salmon's wacky, ironic comedy of manners is set among New York's rich and preposterous over-the-christmas holidays. Cannon Chelsea (071-932 5056) Lumière (071-936 0991) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3865).

• GHOST (12): Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Beguiled, innocent, but absorbing while it lasts. Camden, Baker Street (071-935 5772) Fulham Road (071-932 2636) Empire (071-437 057) Odeon Kensington (071-935 6544/5) Mezzanine (071-935 6111).

• THE HONEYMOON (15): Avril Pow's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro. Curzon Soho (071-935 4926) Screen on the Hill (071-935 3334).

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Labour readies charter aimed at freedom of information

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR is to unveil a charter of rights next month committing it to repeal the Official Secrets Act and to legislating for freedom of information early in a first Labour parliament.

The legislation would be designed to change the climate so that information is freely available unless disclosure infringes personal privacy or national security, instead of keeping information secret unless it is forced to do so.

The policy launch by Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, will seek to demonstrate how civil liberties and freedom of expression have been eroded during Margaret Thatcher's 11 years as prime minister.

The charter of rights will also commit a Labour government to:

- Making the security services accountable to a Commons committee of senior MPs.
- Extending the rights of personal privacy, including tougher data protection legislation.
- Providing stricter anti-

discrimination laws for women, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups.

□ The absolute right to join a trade union.

□ A new press body to control invasions of privacy by the media.

□ The right to peaceful assembly.

The freedom of information legislation would be modelled on the principles enshrined in the American constitution to prevent the suppression of information solely because disclosure would be politically embarrassing or difficult. It would guarantee immunity from prosecution for public servants who disclose confidential information that it is in the public's interest to know.

Mr Hattersley has already backed the Calcutt report in calling for a new, tougher, voluntary press body. He will argue that reputable journalists have nothing to fear, but that the antics of elements of the tabloid press need more powerful controls. If any newspapers continue to flout the rulings of the voluntary body, Labour will be committed to introducing statutory controls to protect the privacy of individuals.

A distinction will be made between those who choose to be public figures and the ordinary private citizen. Mr Hattersley also wants a set of class actions or precedents to guide those subjected to discrimination on the grounds of sex, colour or creed. The Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission would be given tougher powers to act against discrimination.

A Commons committee set up by a Labour government to scrutinise the security services would have strictly defined terms of reference to protect security. It would aim to convince the public that the services' activities are kept under check. The government's refusal to set up a scrutiny committee under the recent security services legislation is seen by Labour as a "major flaw".

● Proposals for outlawing hunting with hounds have been drawn up by Labour (Michael McCarthy writes). The proposals are likely to feature early in a Labour programme, but the party is committed to a free vote on the issue in Parliament.

Planned by church leaders, together with British, Irish and American political figures and others for the truce to become permanent, were rejected shortly after midnight with a burst of shots aimed at the permanent border checkpoint at Annanmore near Roslea in County Fermanagh as

Army ready to seek call of reservists

Continued from page 1
home," he said. "I think it's bloody marvellous what people have done."

Once the skills of the volunteers had been assessed, the shortfall could be quantified and those with specific skills selected to be called up. "Then we shall have to revert, if we have not established we are short, to compulsory call-up," he said. "For that we need secretary of state approval, which we do not have. We shall, from the army point of view, press for the authority we need to call up the numbers we need as soon as possible."

General Pascoe said he would want all recruits to begin training together on January 2. Family difficulties, the prospect of lower pay and the question of job security were reasons why more people had not come forward, although steps had been taken to ensure civilian jobs would stay open.

Most of those who volunteered yesterday will go to the Gulf. A few will replace others in the UK and Germany. At the Royal Army Medical Corps Centre, near Aldershot, yesterday volunteers were given a medical and issued with army clothing.



A walk in the park the Queen and Prince Edward out for a ride in the 200,000-acre estate at Sandringham yesterday. The Queen, astride a chestnut mount, galloped across corn stubble fields as the Christmas gates rebounded for the royal riders

Attack on border crossing ends truce by IRA

By BOB RODWELL

THE provisional IRA let just 20 minutes elapse after the expiry of its unilateral 72-hour Christmas ceasefire before opening fire on a border crossing.

Planned by church leaders, together with British, Irish and American political figures and others for the truce to become permanent, were rejected shortly after midnight with a burst of shots aimed at the permanent border checkpoint at Annanmore near Roslea in County Fermanagh as

agh. The soldiers manning the checkpoint which is closed to traffic during the hours of darkness suffered no injury. They returned fire at their attackers without claiming any hits and the gunmen are thought to have slipped away south into the republic.

The Provisionals attempted to destroy the Annanmore checkpoint last month with a "human bomb" attack involving the biggest device found in Northern Ireland's 20-year emergency. It contained over 3,000lb of explosives but only the detonator went off and it caused no casualties.

A few hours before yesterday's gun attack two prominent Irish-American politicians and congressmen, Joe Kennedy and

the mayor of Boston, Raymond Flynn, had jointly urged the Provisionals to extend their truce.

They offered their services in

attempting to get negotiations under way between the British

government and the Republican movement.

They sent identical telegrams to the Northern Ireland secretary, Peter Brooke, and to Sinn Fein's so-called "foreign affairs department".

An NIO spokesman said Mr

Brooke had no comment to make on the offers from Messrs Kennedy and Flynn but added:

"Northern Ireland welcomes the interest and support of people of goodwill anywhere."

Five more days of gales are forecast

Continued from page 1
affected by drifting snow or flooding.

Couples planning to get married at Gretna Green could not get there yesterday because of snow. As a result, the total number of weddings there in 1990 was likely to be six short of the record 1,478 in the village during 1988.

Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Electricity Service tried to restore power to homes in Tyrone, Fermanagh and Armagh. Police in Northern Ireland said that driving conditions for high-sided vehicles, particularly on motorways, were treacherous. The Glenshane Pass on the Belfast-Derry road was "extremely dangerous" because of ice and blizzards.

In Wales, the Cleddau bridge was closed to high-sided vehicles. Motoring organisations warned drivers in the Midlands to beware of fallen trees and branches brought down by high winds. Police said that extra caution was needed on motorways because of cross winds.

A lobster fisherman was believed last night to have become the latest man lost at sea from the fishing communities on the Moray coast of Scotland. David Main, aged 70, was from Hopeman, the village from which the Premier sailed before sinking off the coast of Shetland with the loss of six lives a fortnight ago. Mr Main is believed to have sailed from the port over Christmas to set pots.

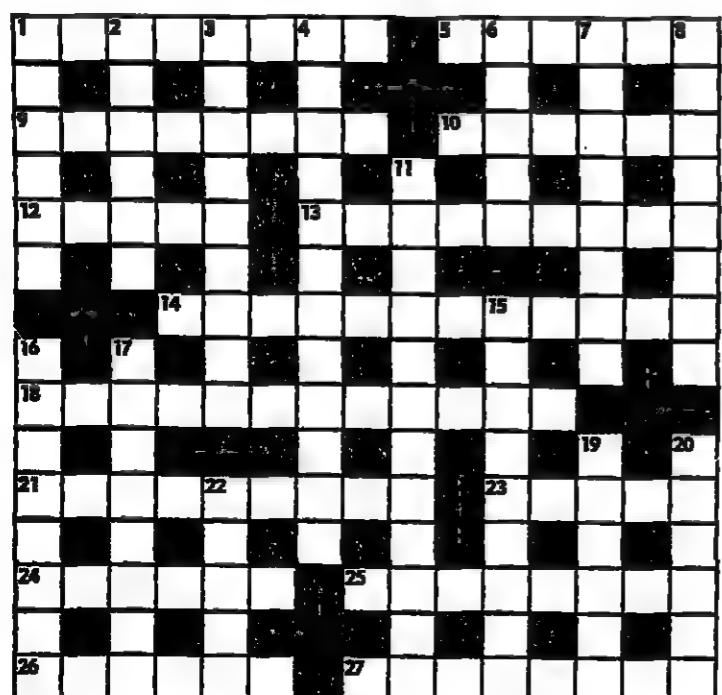
A long-range RAF helicopter took part in the third Atlantic rescue operation of the holiday period when it winched to safety three crew members from a Spanish trawler that foundered in high seas. The helicopter crew at RAF Brawdy, Dyfed, was alerted at 5am after a Mayday message was received from the vessel 170 miles southwest of Ireland.

North Sea workers were evacuated from their platforms after a rig support vessel became stranded in a gas field in storm force winds. The gas rig support vessel, Oakleigh, was tossed around the Audrey gas field, 65 miles off the Humbershire coast, for more than four hours until rescue workers managed to attach a line to the craft and tow it to shore.

A gang of drug smugglers is thought to have perished in the North Sea after £100,000 of cannabis was found washed up on a Suffolk beach. A wrecked dinghy, which had been reported stolen, was found a few miles away. Police in Leiston, Suffolk, said that they were expecting a body or bodies to be washed up.

A storm has made Statoil, the Norwegian state oil firm, cut production at the Stanford oilfield in the North Sea by more than half after the bad weather prevented tankers from docking at the site.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,488



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DIMIN BODS

DAMARIS
a. A faithful serving woman
b. An Athenian convert
c. A militant prophetess

JETHRO

a. A minor prophet
b. Son of Jacob
c. A Midianite priest

BARTHOLEMEW

a. An apostle

b. A companion

c. A publican and sinner

DRUSTILLA

a. A Roman convert

b. An early feminist

c. Wife of Felix

Answers on page 16, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C London (m1/m25 & 5 Circ) 731

M1/M25/M4/M5/M6/M7/M8/M9

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-423 732

M-ways/roads M25-M4 733

M-ways/roads M25-M4 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

National traffic and roundabouts

National motorways

West Country 737

Wales 738

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-east England 742

North-west England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

* denotes figures are latest available

WEATHER

South-eastern parts of England will start dry with rain developing during the afternoon. Wales and the rest of England will have a wet start, becoming more showery later in the day with heavy rain in the West. Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cloudy, clearing from the south. The showers will be frequent and heavy at times, turning to sleet or snow over the high ground of Scotland. Windy everywhere with some gales. Outlook: windy with wintry showers.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: Thunder, drizzle, hazy, short, sunless; snow; later, cold, wet.

SUN: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

MON: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

TUE: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

WED: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

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THU: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

FRI: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

SAT: Rain, then, later, cold, wet; sunless; later, cold, wet.

BUSINESS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-22
● SPORT 24-28Wall Street
fire halts
share deals
all over US

A DANGEROUS chemical fire stopped share dealing throughout America for 90 minutes. A massive explosion in a transformer in the lower Manhattan financial district sent flames shooting eight stories high and showered fire fighters with polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs (writes Philip Robinson).

The building which houses stockbrokers Shearson Lehman Hutton, Chemical Bank, other financial firms, and the key computer equipment which matches share deals at both American and New York stock exchanges, was shut off for several hours yesterday.

Environmental officials cordoned the area until it had been rendered PCB-free, effectively stopping trading. It resumed at 11am New York time and officials reported no damage to the equipment. Other American markets stopped trading until New York reopened. *page 20*

Icahn hints at
bid retraction

TWA's Carl Icahn hinted he would not bid \$375 million for Pan American Corporation if it sold its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle.

Pan Am has refused to comment on newspaper reports it is poised to sell the shuttle service for \$150 million to Northwest Airlines. Mr Icahn said yesterday he was not consulted about any possible sale and first learned of it from newspaper reports.

Mr Icahn told Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am chairman, in a letter that one of the conditions of the offer was there be "no material adverse change in Pan Am such as bankruptcy, a sale of assets for less than fair value, defaults in major borrowings or obligations, or other similar events".

Levitt sale

The insurance broking business of Levitt Group (Holdings), the financial services company taken into administration on December 11, has been sold to its management for an undisclosed price, administrators KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock said. The company will revert to its former name of Chambers and Newman.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8858 (+0.0108)
German mark
2.8876 (+0.0001)
Exchange Index
93.0 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1687.8 (+8.9)
FT-SE 100
2167.8 (+11.5)
New York Dow Jones
2643.07 (+5.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23940.70 (+63.14)
Closing Prices ... *Page 21*

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank: 14-13½%
3-month Eurodollar: 13½-13½%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 8%
3-month Treasury Bills: 8.46-8.45%
30-year bonds: 105½-105½%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.6956 £ 1.8860
DM 2.8878 DM 3.5135
SwF 2.4651 SwF 3.0080
FF 81.07 FF 95.00
Ft 10.50 Ft 12.40
Ecu 0.707689 Sdr 52.2
Ecu 41.3093 Sdr 52.2

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$383.75 pm-\$382.80
close \$382.00-\$383.00 (203.19-
203.72)
New York:
Comex \$382.75-\$383.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) 527.20 bbl
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.535 £ 1.365
Austria Sch 21.20 19.50
Belgium Fr 65.00 59.00
Canada \$ 1.31 2.16
Denmark Kr 11.85 10.98
Finland Mark 1.34 1.34
France Fr 17.11 9.81
Germany Dm 3.02 2.83
Greece Dr 32.10 30.00
Hong Kong \$ 1.33 1.40
Ireland £ 1.064 1.064
Italy Lira 227.50 215.00
Japan Yen 275.00 265.00
New Zealand \$d 1.405 1.398
Norway Kr 11.80 11.10
Portugal Esc 25.25 25.00
South Africa Rand 5.50 4.70
Spain Peseta 191 172
Sweden Kr 11.31 10.83
Switzerland Fr 2.575 2.540
Turkey Lira 1.925 1.850
USA \$ 1.925 1.850
Yugoslavia Dinar 27.50 25.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)



Bankman: jobs warning

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR
CLEAR signs that employers and the government will find considerable difficulty in pushing down the level of pay settlements are given in the latest figures on wage deals from the Confederation of British Industry.

When figures from the Pay Data Bank were published in October, the CBI claimed that the provisional estimate for pay settlements in manufacturing in the three months to September was the first evidence of deals starting to move down.

In today's Data Bank figures, however, the CBI has had to revise upwards estimates of settlement levels for the last quarter to October, and for the quarter before that. Though the revisions are only marginal, they indicate that pay pressure in the economy is

still running at a high level. Though today's CBI survey does not include any data on settlements in the final quarter of this year, CBI leaders admit privately that the figures are unlikely to show much of a decline when they are published in the new year.

The CBI had estimated that settlements in the third quarter were 8.5 per cent, down from 8.9 per cent the previous quarter. Independent pay analysts suggested that the CBI's figures were not in line with those produced by other pay monitoring bodies, and seemed too low.

CBI leaders acknowledged internally that their first provisional figure had been based on a relatively small number of settlements. Today's figures revise the quarterly total upwards to 8.6 per cent. The figure for the previous quarter is also increased to 9 per cent. While this means the CBI is still charting a

fall in settlements, ministers' enthusiasm for what the CBI figures are showing will be tempered by the fact that the revisions are, for them, going the wrong way.

That feeling will be increased by the CBI's provisional figures in the same report that show an actual increase in pay settlements in the service sector. Pay deals in private sector service companies, in such areas as catering, financial services, leisure, transport and retailing, were running at 9 per cent in the second half. This is higher than the 8.9 per cent for the first half, though the CBI points out that this is lower than the figure for a year before of 9.2 per cent.

Commenting on its latest figures, the CBI notes that manufacturers' estimates on productivity growth are now at 4.5 per cent, down to the lowest figure since it started

collecting this information three years ago.

The CBI says that to maintain an internationally competitive position, settlements last year would need to have been contained to no more than 2 per cent above productivity growth. Since only a third of British manufacturers achieved this target, the CBI gives a warning that in a recession, such figures indicate further redundancies. What it sees as a slowdown in earnings growth must continue, the CBI says, in order to stop the rising tide of redundancies turning into a flood.

John Banham, CBI director general, said: "The growth in unemployment can only accelerate unless lower pay settlements lead inflation downwards." He added: "If such recklessness prevails, there will be needless job losses, bringing bleak prospects to thousands of families in the new year."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Economists see
devaluation
or rise in rates

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND GRAHAM SEARJANT

THE government could face the awkward pre-election choice of an interest rate rise or a devaluation of the pound next year. Oxford Economic Forecasting predicts in an end-of-year report.

The report comes as two senior bankers voiced fears that there is little the government can do to prevent a full-blown recession and a sharp increase in business failures before the economy shows any sign of recovery.

Oxford forecasts that the trade deficit, after narrowing well into next year, will deteriorate again and upset the foreign exchanges. OEF attributes

the worsening of the current account to renewed domestic demand as the economy comes out of recession.

OEF also predicts the economy will shrink 0.3 per cent next year. The forecast assumes an election will be next year, mainly because of the greater economic risk in waiting until 1992.

The main danger is the vulnerable financial position of the company sector, OEF says. Despite sustained cuts in investment, the financial imbalance facing industrial and commercial companies remains more than £20 billion throughout the forecast period to 1993.

"If business confidence

Gloomy outlook
for two industries

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITAIN'S road freight and printing industries face a bleak 1991, according to industry surveys.

The printing industry is in

deepening recession, a study by the British Printing Industries Federation shows. Seven thousand jobs, equal to 5.6 per cent of the workforce, have been shed through redundancy by the federation's 3,451 member firms this year.

In the gloomiest quarterly

survey, conducted in mid

December, the federation

found two thirds of the 60

representative companies working

below capacity. A seasonal

uplift in activity, expected in

the autumn, failed to occur.

Colin Stanley, BPIF director general, said: "Three

months ago, 22 per cent of our

members thought that trade

would be down in the final

quarter. In reality, 48 per cent

found that trade was down."

Forty-seven per cent expect business levels to remain static, with 16 per cent expecting to move less goods than this year. However, 37 per cent do expect a small increase in business, while 23 per cent expect to reduce their fleet size next year. Some specialist transport companies are expecting a fall in demand of more than 15 per cent compared with this year.

"Companies today don't have the fat they had then. They are leaner and fitter. Also, the effect of falling demand is biting earlier than it normally does."

Sir Nicholas said business was less able now than ten years ago to cut costs in order to cope with recessionary pressures.

Sir Nicholas said he did not hold out much hope of Britain's economy starting to show signs of recovery until the end of next year. "It is going to get worse in the coming months," he said.

He added: "That is British justice's treatment of me."

Mr Nadir was freed from five days in custody on December 20 after raising record bail of £3.5 million. He faces a second court hearing on January 28 and is not allowed to leave London.

The police are enquiring into 18 counts of theft and false accounting against Mr Nadir, allegedly involving £25 million.

Mr Nadir denies illegal dealing to support Polly Peck shares, which lost £2 billion in value before trading was suspended on September 20.

Mr Nadir described his jail cell as not fit for a pig.

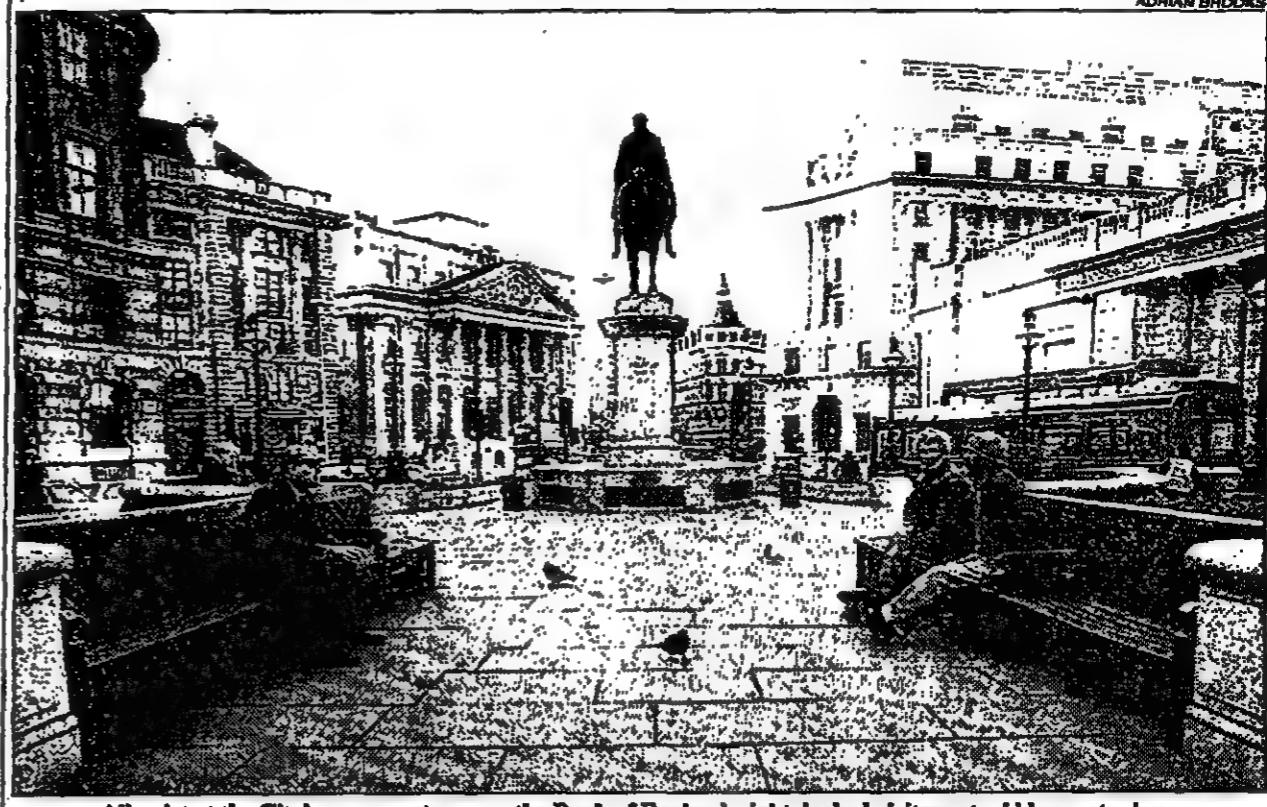
"In British jails, they pay prisoners awaiting trial £1.45 a week to spend at the canteen," said Mr Nadir, who built Polly Peck into one of the hottest stocks of the Eighties.

"I was also given the money. I was happy. At the end of my 23 hours in the cell, I was allowed to go to the canteen."

"I demanded two packs of cigarettes, a pack of candy, two cokes, a bottle of soda and a box of matches."

"The canteen man said to me: 'Are you kidding? You can only buy 13 cigarettes with this money. For the matches, try next week.'"

(Reuter)



All quiet at the City's nerve centre: even the Bank of England, right, lacked visitors at midday yesterday

Complaint
by Nadir
over jail
treatmentLloyd's capacity
for underwriting
to reach £11.4bn

By JONATHAN PRYNN

UNDERWRITING capacity at Lloyd's is poised to reach record of £11.4 billion next year, according to provisional year-end figures published by the market.

The capacity figure marks

an increase of £400 million

over this year and follows

several years of unchanged or

declining capacity. This year

the number of underwriting

members or names continued

to fall, with 2,150 resignations

against only 254 new mem-

bers beginning underwriting

at the start of next year. This

will bring the number of names at

Lloyd's down to 26,534

against 32,433 at the peak in

1988.

The overall capacity in-

crease came from the record

6,329 names that will increase

their premium limits for next

year. The average premium

limit for names next year will

be £385,000, against £350,000

last year and £251,000 for

resigning names.

David Coleridge, the in-

coming chairman of Lloyd's,

who has argued that addi-

tional capacity will be needed

to meet the rise in the in-

surance cycle in the early

Nineties, said: "The increase

in capacity comes at an oppor-

tunity time for Lloyd's since

it's still the market's

turnaround time."

Most sections of the market

have reported higher rates

during this year's renewal

season. Derek Wills, chair-

UK uncertainty frustrates Swiss plan to buy part of Harwell

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A SWISS company has been trying to buy part of the government's research establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, under a \$40 million plan to create a world centre for environmental safety testing. But uncertainties over the government's intentions for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority after the privatisation of the electricity industry are understood to have made it difficult for the Swiss to make headway through discreet approaches to British officials.

The Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), which operates a worldwide network of laboratories for inspecting and analysing agricultural and industrial products, has made approaches over the past year about the Environmental Safety Centre at Harwell, a 20-year-old laboratory and consultancy service of world standing. The centre is focused on non-nuclear environmental work.

SGS has an annual revenue of about SwFr2.6 billion (£806 million) and a staff of 23,000. The SGS board, which includes Fritz Leutwiler, former president of the Swiss Central

Bank, has recognised important growth markets for safety testing emerging from international concern about environmental problems.

The Swiss company has identified Harwell as a potential centre for its environmental operations, building on its high international standing. But having failed to extract a response to approaches at ministerial level, SGS is likely to consider alternative targets in Europe.

One fear is that the uncertainty arising from the privatisation programme could lead to scientists leaving Harwell in large numbers.

Under the restructuring of the Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell has cut its staff by 1,200 to just over 3,000. The component businesses are under government instructions to show a profit or face further shrinkage. The ESC is about 40 scientists.

An Atomic Energy Authority spokesman was unaware of the SGS approaches, but said he was not surprised. A spokesman for SGS's subsidiary at Camberley, Surrey, said executives could not be contacted to comment.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	583.3	0.0	-30.8	0.4	-22.6	0.1	-19.0
111.8	-0.0	-30.8	0.3	-22.6	0.1	-19.0	
EAPE	982.9	0.0	-36.3	0.3	-30.5	0.1	-25.4
(free)	102.1	0.0	-36.4	0.3	-30.9	0.1	-25.5
Europe	599.1	-0.1	-21.3	0.0	-16.8	0.0	-7.8
(free)	123.7	0.0	-20.6	-0.2	-18.3	0.0	-7.1
Nm America	451.2	-0.1	-19.9	0.0	-6.1	0.0	-8.2
Nordic	1082.5	0.2	-30.5	0.3	-25.4	0.2	-18.5
(free)	177.6	0.7	-24.5	0.7	-19.5	0.8	-11.6
Pacific	2163.4	0.1	-44.7	0.5	-38.2	0.2	-35.2
Far East	3176.7	0.1	-45.1	0.5	-36.9	0.2	-35.7
Australia	232.8	-0.1	-33.0	0.8	-19.3	0.8	-21.5
Austria	1319.8	-0.2	-11.2	0.3	-5.5	0.1	-4.0
Belgium	699.2	0.7	-29.0	0.2	-28.1	0.7	-16.8
Denmark	1073.6	1.5	-18.4	1.7	-14.2	1.6	-4.5
Finland	65.2	0.3	-43.5	0.3	-39.5	0.3	-33.8
(free)	57.8	2.1	-41.1	2.4	-37.0	2.2	-31.0
France	574.6	-0.7	-26.9	0.5	-25.2	-0.6	-16.8
Germany	694.4	-0.6	-24.3	-0.6	-19.9	-0.6	-11.4
Hong Kong	1989.5	0.2	-10.3	0.3	-8.0	0.3	-5.0
Italy	256.9	0.8	-33.4	0.9	-29.0	0.9	-22.0
Japan	3333.2	0.1	-46.0	0.5	-40.0	0.2	-36.7
Netherlands	743.6	-0.2	-21.4	0.1	-16.7	-0.1	-7.9
New Zealand	52.1	-0.2	-49.4	0.2	-38.8	0.1	-40.5
Norway	1079.3	0.5	-18.6	0.3	-14.4	0.8	-5.8
(free)	169.0	0.7	-19.1	0.3	-13.9	0.8	-5.3
Sing/Malay	1488.9	-0.7	-26.3	0.4	-20.4	-0.5	-18.7
Spain	153.4	-0.8	-31.0	-0.2	-27.8	-0.7	-19.1
Sweden	1138.2	-0.7	-35.1	-0.2	-28.7	-0.6	-24.0
(free)	165.7	-0.4	-31.5	-0.2	-25.9	-0.3	-19.0
Switzerland	706.5	-1.0	-22.7	-0.7	-23.3	-1.0	-8.5
(free)	107.7	-1.2	-22.8	-0.3	-23.4	-1.1	-9.8
UK	645.4	0.4	-10.5	0.4	-10.5	0.5	-4.8
USA	380.8	-0.1	-19.1	0.4	-6.3	0.0	-8.3

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Bar: Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated. If you win, follow the cash procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change	Per Share	Yield	P/E
1	Whosac	Industrials S-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
2	Granada (as)	Industrials S-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
3	RHM (as)	Foods		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
4	Johnstone Price	Newspapers/Pub		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
5	Heversud	Industrials S-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
6	Costain	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
7	Turnball Scott	Transport		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
8	Mauders (J)	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
9	Forstermer	Drapery/Stores		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
10	ROC (as)	Industrials S-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
11	Blue Circle (as)	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
12	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
13	Grainer	Property		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
14	De La Rue	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
15	CIA (as)	Paper/Print/Adv		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
16	Rank Cray (as)	Industrials L-P		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
17	Imron	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
18	Scot & New (as)	Breweries		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
19	Smith Wt A (as)	Drapery/Stores		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
20	Breken Hill	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
21	Bodycode	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
22	Tarmac (as)	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
23	Mine Op	Industrials L-P		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
24	Clayton Son	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
25	Dawson	Textiles		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
26	BAT (as)	Tobaccos		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
27	Simon Eng	Industrials S-Z		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
28	Transier H (as)	Industrials S-Z		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
29	South West	Water		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
30	Taylor Woodrow (as)	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
31	Wessex Water	Water		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
32	Johnson Matthey	Industrials E-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
33	Mersey Docks	Transport		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
34	Woodside	Oil/Gas		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
35	Jessops	Motors/Aircraft		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
36	Severn Trent	Water		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
37	Ormeus (as)	Services		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
38	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
39	Aus New Z	Banks/Discount		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
40	Oxford Instruments	Electronics		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
41	Sainsbury J (as)	Foods		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
42	Wellcome (as)	Industrials S-Z		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
43	Booz PLC (as)	Building/Roads		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
44	ECC Group (as)	Industrials E-K		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10
45	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total		100	98	99	-1	100	1.0	10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend										
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend in tomorrow's newspaper.										
New Dividends										
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

BRITISH FUNDS

1990										
	High	Low	Code	Price	Close	Yield	Per Share	Div	Yield	P/E
SHORTS (Under Five Years)										
87	72%	69%	69%	69%	69%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
101	69%	66%	66%	66%	66%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
102	66%	63%	63%	63%	63%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
103	63%	60%	60%	60%	60%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
104	60%	57%	57%	57%	57%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
105	57%	54%	54%	54%	54%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
106	54%	51%	51%	51%	51%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
107	51%	48%	48%	48%	48%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
108	48%	45%	45%	45%	45%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
109	45%	42%	42%	42%	42%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
110	42%	39%	39%	39%	39%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
111	39%	36%	36%	36%	36%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
112	36%	33%	33%	33%	33%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
113	33%	30%	30%	30%	30%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
114	30%	27%	27%	27%	27%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
115	27%	24%	24%	24%	24%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
116	24%	21%	21%	21%	21%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
117	21%	18%	18%	18%	18%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
118	18%	15%	15%	15%	15%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
119	15%	12%	12%	12%	12%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
120	12%	9%	9%	9%	9%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
121	9%	6%	6%	6%	6%	1.0	100	1.00	1.0	10
122	6%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1.0	100	1.00		

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNLISTED SECURITIES

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 93.0 (day's range 92.8-93.2).

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 93.0 (day's range 92.8-93.2).

Price: \$406.00 (2218.00)
Postage: \$13.50 (0.00-20)

COMMODITIES

مقدمة من الأصل

SPORT

Mason's
bluff
called by
Lewis

LENNOX Lewis has formally signed for his double heavyweight boxing contest with Gary Mason, the British champion, at Wembley on February 13. Mason's manager and promoter, Mickey Duff, had been convinced that Lewis, the undefeated European champion, would want no part in the bout, worth £276,000.

Frank Maloney, the manager of Lewis, arrived from Canada yesterday with the contract complete and ready to return to Duff with a double condition of compensation for a warm-up bout if the contest does not take place on the agreed date.

"Let's see if they are going ahead with it," Maloney said. "I believe the only reason Duff paid so much money for the fight was that he thought that it wouldn't happen."

"Duff said that Lewis will be making a withdrawal, but our plan is to move into the frontline. Lennox has proved that by signing the contract and now let's see what Mason's plan is."

"After this, Mason and his promoters will have nowhere to go. Mason has got a lot to lose by taking this fight and it's time for the bluffing and games to stop."

"Gary has gone along fighting cruiserweights and this is the first time he will be taking on a fully-fledged heavyweight, and we'll see if he can absorb 16st 6lb hitting him on the chin."

The European champion's British career was recently thrown into doubt by the financial crash of his backers, the Levitt Group. Maloney said: "His contract is still in operation and it means we will have to work harder for things."

Lewis, who shortly moves to a United States training camp, had a message for Mason. He said: "I am looking forward to winning the British title in February. You must be ready for a real awakening and introduction into the heavyweight division."

Lewis will be receiving £13,000 plus a share of television cash for a night which could elevate him into the higher reaches of the world rankings.

George Middleton, the manager of the late Randolph Turpin, who beat the legendary American, Sugar Ray Robinson, to win the world middleweight title in 1951, has died, aged 86.

England haunted by past failings

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, MELBOURNE

IN THE middle of a match, statistics can prove everything and nothing. By nightfall here yesterday, England could have been congratulating themselves for exceeding 300 in a first innings against Australia for the first time in seven Tests. Or they could have been pondering what happened on the last occasion, and the real prospect of something similar happening here.

Gower had won his private battles on Wednesday, convincing himself he was fit enough to play and then convincing many others who chose to doubt him that he is still far too good to be pensioned off. Yesterday, the demands relaxed, he played with charm and composure for 50 minutes when what England really needed was for him to bat most of the day.

This, however, was not the careless Gower who has infuriated us all. He achieved the day's priority by negotiating the second new ball, then unfurled two memorable cover drives against Alderman, struck so sweetly that they rocketed to the far-off boundary even over this adhesive outfield. Suddenly, the century was his, quietly acknowledged by one with something still more substantial in mind.

It was not to be. Bruce Reid, here as in Brisbane much the most threatening Australian bowler, pushed him defensively onto the back foot, deceived him with extra bounce and, as the ball looped tantalisingly back off the splice, reached down his long left arm to pluck the catch.

Gower's head dropped, his eyes closed and he prodded the pitch acerbically. But despite the feeling that he had more to offer, this was a century of character by the batsman who has been the top scorer in England's last four Test match innings. If you

see a convenient scapegoat,

seek a convenient scapegoat, look elsewhere.

It was when his innings ended that England slipped before lunch. Psychologically, it was exactly what Australia needed, and poor Russell is simply not playing well enough to justify being as high as No. 7.

Sadly, there is no one

hustling him from below, and as Reid took the next three

wickets, each one the result of a bat burst hypnotically at the left-arm's stock, angled de-

livery, England's innings fell apologetically short.

Even Alec Stewart, Gower's ally in the fifth-wicket stand of 122, strode away cursing himself when he compromised almost five hours of concentration with a poor shot. For the first time, however, he had begun to look an authentic Test batsman and, for his sake, one must hope that England now allow him to settle at No. 6 in the order.

Reid's six wickets, of which he took four for 26 in 16 overs yesterday, were vindication of his own resolve, and his surgeon's skill during a protracted fight against spinal damage. He looks a world-class bowler with the priceless advantage of variety.

England's four chosen bowlers boasted only 120 Test wickets between them, and in difficult, windswept conditions they created few problems. It was a surprise when Marsh was out, pushing at a good outswinger from DeFreitas, but there was nothing further to persuade England they had not missed a good opportunity to put Australia on the defensive for the first time in two series.

Match referee: Reid takes a return chance from Gower after the England batsman had reached his hundred in Melbourne yesterday

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Match referee: Reid takes a return chance from Gower after the England batsman had reached his hundred in Melbourne yesterday



Back injury puts Lewis out of tour

From ALAN LEE

CHRIS Lewis must fly home from Australia tomorrow, the tour which might have established him as a genuine England all-rounder prematurely terminated.

Lewis, aged 22, born in Guyana and reckoned by Australia's coach, Bob Simpson, to be England's most exciting young cricketer, has a stress fracture of the back which he must rest for up to three months.

His condition, which had been undiagnosed for some weeks, had puzzled and frustrated the England management. It was finally explained when Lewis underwent spinal x-rays yesterday. Once the fracture was discovered, there was no option but to send him home in the hope that he can recover fitness in time for the English summer.

No decision has been announced on any further replacement players, but with

However, Hugh Morris, due to leave next week to begin his duties as England A team captain in Pakistan, may yet be retained here instead.

On such a turbulent tour,

one more setback tends to

attract only a numb resignation,

but, as the manager, Peter Lush, explained last night, there is special sympathy for Lewis, whose injury-prone career is in jeopardy.

"We have had a few knocks

on this tour, but this is

especially hard to take," Lush said. "It has come as a big shock to Chris and he was heartbroken when told the news. But there is no reason why he should not make a complete recovery."

FULL SECOND-DAY SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

England won toss

ENGLAND: First innings						
	6s	4s	Mins	Balls		
G A Gooch lbw v Alderman	20	2	33	33		
Playing no shot, ball brushed pad						
M A Atherton c Bowdell b Reid	0	—	15	11		
Turned short ball straight to short leg						
W Larino c Healy b Reid	64	—	5	216	145	
Alming drive at ball wide of off stump						
R A Smith c Healy b Hughes	30	—	3	121	86	
Front edge wide of off stump cut and pied						
D M Allderman c Reid	100	—	8	254	170	
Played early at slower ball						
A J Stewart c Healy b Reid	76	—	4	278	211	
Edged drive to wicketkeeper						
TR C Russell c Healy b Hughes	15	—	1	68	55	
Leg glance off wide ball						
P A J DeFreitas c Healy b Field	3	—	5	5	5	
A R C Frear c Jones b Alderman	24	—	3	68	55	
Skid drive to extra cover						
D E Maclean c Taylor b Reid	6	—	1	32	19	
Wild drive, edged to second slip						
P C Tuhell not out	0	—	—	13	9	
Extras (B 2, no 0)	11	—				
Total (131.4 overs, 561 min)	352	—				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Gooch 11), 2-30 (Larino 6), 3-109 (Larino 53), 4-152 (Gooch 32), 5-274 (Stewart 50), 6-303 (Stewart 63), 7-307 (Stewart 63), 8-324 (Fraser 2), 9-344 (Fraser 18), 10-352 (Tuhell 0).

BOWLING: Alderman 30.4-7-85-2 (nb2) (10-3-20-1), (7-2-16-0), (5-1-14-0) (6-1-29-0) (2-4-8-1); Reid 39-8-97-5 (nb1) (5-2-24-0), (7-2-15-0), (5-2-24-1), (3-1-11-0) (7-1-19-1); Hughes 20-7-93-2 (nb2) (5-2-15-0), (7-2-16-0), (5-2-10-0), (6-2-23-0) (7-3-17-1); Matthews 27-8-85-0 (4-0-24-0), (8-8-0) 15-4-33-0; Waugh 19-0 (one spell).

AUSTRALIA: First innings

	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
G R Marshall c Russell b DeFreitas	36	—	55	62
Drive swinging ball, edge behind				
M A Taylor not out	42	—	3	158
D C Broom not out	16	—	—	72
Extras (B 4, nb 8)	13	—		
Total (1 wkt, 35 overs, 158 min)	108	—		

D M Jones, "A R Border, S R Waugh, G R Matthews, T A Healy, M G Hughes, T M Alderman and B Reid to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-83 (Taylor 19).

BOWLING: Malcolm 8.2-25-0 (nb3) (3-1-7-0), (5-1-18-0); Fraser 13-1-48-0 (nb7) (7-1-24-0), (6-0-54-0); Tuhell 8.2-23-0 (2-0-3-0), (4-2-3-0); DeFreitas 6-0-23-1 (one spell); Atherton 2-1-3-0 (one spell).

Umpires: A R Crafter and P J McConnell.

Leicester wilt as Moon rises to the challenge

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Leicester 21

Barbarians 26

THE aura of this traditional holiday match never fails. In a changing world, Leicester and the Barbarians retain the capacity to thrill, and the 72nd in the series, at a cold and windy Welford Road yesterday, was no exception.

A crowd of 17,300 revelled in the entertainment, and if their support was, at times, muted, it may be that they thought their club — deprived of Richards, their immensely popular captain, and three other first-choice players — had little chance of victory. How wrong they were as Leicester recovered from a ten-point deficit to take the lead, only to lose it in the final quarter.

The Barbarians, in the sixth season of their centenary, won by three goals and two tries to two goals and three penalty goals, and deserved to. Their spirit was best exemplified by Moon, a replacement for Emry as early as the ninth minute, who scored two tries on the left wing, and Pool-Jones, the Cambridge University flanker, who lost nothing by comparison with the distinguished company he was keeping.

Emry, the Swansea wing, limped off after a heavy tackle by Rory Underwood, and there are fears that damaged ankle ligaments may exclude him from selection for Wales against England on January 19. National considerations, though, played little part in a marvellously competitive game in which the extra class of the visitors finally told.

But during the middle part of the game they were excluded by the tenacity of the Leicester pack, which conceded nothing in the lineouts. Bollerwell initially awoke

and whose rolling mauls gave the back division a splendid platform. It soon became apparent, though, that the strength of the Barbarians midfield would let nothing through, and the hinge of the Leicester offensive became Kardonoo.

Not for the first time this season the agile scrum half proved a rare handful, well supported by the industrious Back. He and Robinson, his opposite number, spent the afternoon in each other's pocket, though it was sad to see the Bath flanker obstruct Tony Underwood so badly early in the game when Kardonoo made the first of several telling breaks.

Liley, who kicked everything on offer, opened the scoring with a penalty goal, but the Barbarians scored the opening try when Robinson was first to a wild Leicester tap at a lineout and the ball flickered down the line to Lardonoo. The Frenchman also set up the second when Liley missed touch and Guscott, from 40 metres, floated through three tacklers for a superb try.

If Leicester found it difficult getting a grip with the strength and pace of Guscott and his French colleagues, they were taken aback